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ALWAYS A PROSECUTOR: Vice President Kamala Harris would put staffers on "the witness stand," a former employee said, adding that "the grilling" is likely to work to her benefit in her presidential campaign against Donald Trump.

CAMPAIGN 2024

Harris' leadership drives staffers from vice presidential office

Former workers describe toxic, dysfunctional atmosphere

By **SUSAN FERRECHIO**
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Vice President Kamala Harris has churned through her office staff, raising questions about her management style and leadership abilities as she advances unchallenged toward the Democratic presidential nomination.

Researchers who analyzed payroll data found an "extraordinarily high" exodus rate from Ms. Harris' vice presidential office. Those who have worked for

her over the past decade report that she was a tyrannical boss who terrified her employees, cursed, discouraged direct eye contact and made employees stand at attention when she entered a room.

One Democratic official whose son worked as an intern for Ms. Harris during her years as California's attorney general (2011-2017) wrote in late 2019, after she launched her failed presidential bid, "There is another side of Kamala Harris which the general public does not know."

Ms. Harris, 59, is on track to clinch the Democratic presidential nomination in a virtual vote and without opposition.

Multiple reports, focusing on anecdotal complaints from former employees, have focused on low morale and high turnover in her vice presidential office.

In a new report by the watchdog group Open the Books, researchers quantified her human resources problem. They discovered a 92% staff turnover through

» see **HARRIS** | A4

U.S. ENDS MEN'S GYMNASTICS MEDAL DROUGHT



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U.S. men's gymnastics team members (from left) Brody Malone, Asher Hong, Fred Richard, Paul Juda and Stephen Nedoroskik wave the American flag after snapping a 16-year medal drought by winning the bronze medal in the artistic team finals Monday in Paris. Story, B12.

HIGHER EDUCATION

Students score better with new AP testing

By **SEAN SALAI**
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

A surge in Advanced Placement test scores after a change in how the College Board evaluates the exams has sparked accusations of grade inflation.

The College Board revealed this month that it started scoring the tests differently in 2022 to bring up all of its exams to pass rates of 60% to 80%. It said that range best reflects the letter grade distribution in Advanced Placement high school classes

College Board denies revenue for struggling schools is goal

nationwide, as tracked by digital software implemented in 2019.

The share of students earning passing scores jumped in the years that each exam adopted the new system. Pass rates increased for AP English literature by 30 percentage points to 77.9% in 2022, for AP chemistry by 21 points to 75.1% in 2023 and for AP U.S. history by 16.7 points to

72% this year.

A College Board spokesperson said educator feedback and new data drove the decision to replace a panel of 10 to 18 scholars who tweaked the grading system every five to 10 years with an "evidence-based standard setting."

"Revenue was not a consideration in our score verification process," the College Board said

in an email. "Our only goal was to ensure fairness for students and that we are setting appropriate standards for Advanced Placement that align with the skills valued for college credit."

The College Board has scored AP examinations on a scale of 1 to 5 for high school students since 1954. Universities accept no less than a "qualified" score of 3 for students to test out of roughly 40 introductory classes in languages, social studies, arts, mathematics

» see **COLLEGE** | A4

ACCOUNTABILITY

IRS keeps dozens of intentional tax cheats on payroll

Red flags no barrier to hiring

By **STEPHEN DINAN**
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

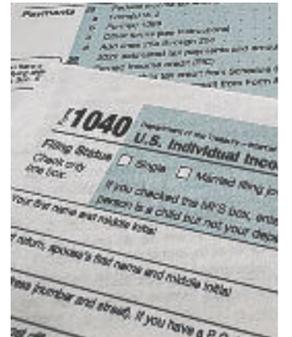
Dozens of IRS employees who have "willfully" cheated on their taxes remain working for the agency, and some have even been hired back after evasion, an inspector general reported Monday.

According to the audit, 5% of the IRS's workforce failed to pay their taxes in full and on time at some point while working for the agency. Most of those were deemed mistakes.

Still, 70 current employees were found to have intentionally cheated. Of those, only 20 were ousted. Most of the rest remain on the job after a short suspension. Under the law, all of them should have been fired unless they received a special exemption from the commissioner.

The IRS also rehired nearly 400 former employees despite red flags in their files. They included 85 who failed to pay their taxes in full and on time and 34 who were deemed to have peeked at taxpayers' secret information.

Hundreds more former employees were hired back as contractors despite red flags that



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ON FILE: Most of the failures to pay taxes in full and on time were deemed mistakes, but the IRS suspended others.

included avoiding taxes, falsifying documents or theft.

Sen. Joni Ernst, the Iowa Republican who requested the audit, said the agency must do significant self-cleaning if it wants to make Americans pay their taxes.

"While the IRS warns, 'tax evasion is a serious crime punishable by imprisonment, fines, and the imposition of civil penalties,' the

» see **IRS** | A4

CHINA

Regime carries out genocide of faithful

Destruction policy slow, quiet

By **ANDREW SALMON**
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

TOKYO | Dorjee Tseten is 41 but has never set foot on his home country's soil.

"My family escaped Tibet, but 1.2 million Tibetans have lost their lives over the last seven decades through military occupation, famine and while escaping," said Mr. Tseten, a member of Tibet's parliament in exile. "Every family has this kind of story."

It hits him hardest when he views TV news. "When I hear of the killing of innocents, it reminds me of what is happening in Tibet," he said.

Bloody conflicts raging in the Gaza Strip, Sudan and Ukraine generate loose talk of genocide.

For those at the International Religious Freedom Summit Asia in Tokyo last week, the discussion was precise and the target clear in what many said was the Chinese communist regime's quiet, de facto policy of genocide in Tibet and Xinjiang.

"The term 'genocide' is sometimes misused to get attention," said Robert Rehak, the Czech Republic's special envoy for Holocaust issues, interfaith dialogue and freedom of religion. "It may not be the mass killing of a huge number of people, but if the long-term aim is to end a nation, you can call it genocide."

Conference sponsors included Freedom House, the Family

» see **GENOCIDE** | A5

VENEZUELA

U.S., other opponents of Maduro weigh response to election 'victory'

By **BEN WOLFGANG**
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Venezuela teetered on the brink of a political crisis Monday after President Nicolas Maduro claimed reelection amid contested and seemingly suspicious vote tallies, while the Biden administration cast heavy doubt on the results and critics said Mr. Maduro's socialist government had flagrantly overturned the will of the country's voters.

Edmundo Gonzalez Urrutia, a

retired diplomat and Mr. Maduro's opponent, suggested that the official government vote totals were fraudulent and he was the rightful winner.

The election stakes were high. U.S. adversaries such as Russia and China are cultivating closer ties with oil-rich Venezuela to help them strengthen their foothold in South America.

The Biden administration immediately demanded that Venezuela release precinct-level vote totals, citing preelection and exit

polls showing the opposition with a significant lead.

"By engaging in repression and electoral manipulation, and by declaring a winner without the detailed precinct-by-precinct polling results ... to support a claim, Maduro representatives have stripped the supposed election results they announced of any credibility," a senior U.S. administration official told reporters in a background briefing.

» see **VENEZUELA** | A5



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NO 'WEAKNESS' Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro received congratulations from Chinese and Russian leaders.

POLITICS

FBI seeks interview with Trump as victim of assassination bid. A3

NATION

Minnesota prepares for influx as abortion ban takes effect in Iowa. A6

WORLD

To combat authoritarian regimes in Asia, U.S. enhancing security. A8

COMMENTARY

Liberals love victims except when the victim is Donald Trump. B1

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NOT KEEN ON THE DRAFT

Is there a draft in here? We're talking about the military draft. A new Rasmussen Reports survey found that only 21% of voters believe the U.S. should have a military draft, while 61% disagree and 18% are not sure.

The survey of 1,110 likely U.S. voters was conducted online and by phone July 10-14, and on July 19 and released Monday.

Meanwhile, here's what the Selective Service has to say about the draft.

"While there is currently no draft, registration with the Selective Service System is the most publicly visible program during peacetime that ensures operational readiness in a fair and equitable manner. If authorized by the President and Congress, our Agency would rapidly provide personnel to the Department of Defense while at the same time providing an Alternative Service Program for conscientious objectors," the Selective Service said in a written statement directed to men of a certain age.

STILL NO. 1

An extra and perhaps unexpected benefit continues to up the appeal of J.D. Vance, running mate of former President Donald Trump. Mr. Vance's book "Hillbilly Elegy" is ruling the bestseller list.

"In the week after J.D. Vance was named the Republican vice-presidential candidate, more copies of the 2018 trade paperback edition of his Hillbilly Elegy were sold than in the previous 234 weeks combined. Put another way, that edition's print unit sales for the week were greater than its print unit sales for an entire year — any year. No matter how you look at it, it's the bestselling book in the U.S. by a country mile," reported Publishers Weekly, an industry source.



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Just 21% of U.S. voters surveyed say there should be a military draft, while 61% there should not and 18% are unsure, Rasmussen Reports found.

To illustrate how far ahead Mr. Vance is in the publishing world, consider that in that short period, the book sold over 197,000 copies. That's not bad for a book originally published in 2016. In second place is a 2022 book called "The Housemaid" by Freida McFadden — which sold 31,452 books.

THE VEGGIE DOG FACTOR

Things will be interesting at the U.S. Capitol on Wednesday at high noon.

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals will be on hand for its long-standing efforts to raise lawmakers' awareness of vegetarian hot dogs and other meatless fare.

"My Hot Dog Has a First Name. It's V-E-G-A-N! Oscar Mayer's delicious new veggie dogs will be served with all the trimmings to members of Congress and their staff on Wednesday during PETA's 28th Congressional Veggie Dog Lunch — which started as a protest in 1996 but is now a Capitol Hill institution," the animal rights organization said in a written statement shared with Inside the Beltway.

"In addition to the animal-friendly franks, PETA will hand out free vegan cookbooks, pig plushies, and pig-shaped toys for congressional staffers' canines," the group said.

Pig plushies, by the way, are little stuffed animals.

"Oscar Mayer's vegan hot dogs are as delicious as they are kind to animals, who feel pain and fear just as humans do and don't deserve to be killed for a fleeting taste," said Tracy Reiman, PETA executive vice president.

"PETA relishes the opportunity to serve vegan eats to policymakers and encourages people everywhere to leave animals off their plates," she said.

The group will congregate at the Rayburn House Office Building, and advise they have a "free vegan starter kit" for those interested in going the vegetarian route.

MEANWHILE IN MANHATTAN

Let us briefly visit with the New York Young Republicans Club, established in Manhattan in 1911 and the nation's oldest and largest club for young Republicans. And they know how to socialize.

"Join us for an exciting Tiki Tuesday! Enjoy tropical cocktails with fellow members and network in a lively atmosphere," the club said in an invitation shared with Inside the Beltway.

But that's not all. Events scheduled for August include a scholarly talk with two authors, one an attorney, the other a pastor who is also an attorney. Also on the schedule: An "epic day of paintball" at a paintball site in nearby New Jersey.

HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

The National Republican Congressional Committee has revealed the initial list of 26 candidates in the 2024 Young Guns program.

The program mentors candidates in competitive U.S. House races and provides "the necessary tools to run successful, winning campaigns against their Democratic opponents," according to a committee statement.

Almost all the candidates are challenging Democratic incumbents, and the others are newcomers seeking to hold Republican seats that an incumbent is vacating.

"Extreme House Democrats' border, crime and cost of living crises wrecked Americans' safety and security," said Rep. Richard Hudson of North

Carolina, the NRCC chairman.

"Fortunately, these Republican candidates are already well on their way to running winning campaigns that will grow our House majority in November," he said.

The program also requires these hopefuls "to work towards specific goals and meet benchmarks throughout the election cycle to ensure their campaigns remain competitive, well-funded and communicative within their districts."

Who are they? Here's the list, alphabetically by state: Caroleene Dobson (Alabama); Nancy Dahlstrom (Alaska); Kevin Lincoln, Scott Baugh and Matt Gunderson (California); Jeff Hurd and Gabe Evans (Colorado); George Logan (Connecticut); Joe McGraw (Illinois); Randy Niemeyer (Indiana); Prashant Reddy (Kansas); Austin Theriault (Maine); Tom Barrett (Michigan); Joe Teirab (Minnesota); John Lee (Nevada); Yvette Herrell (New Mexico); Alison Esposito (New York); Laurie Buckhout (North Carolina); Derek Merrin and Kevin Coughlin (Ohio); Monique DeSpain (Oregon); Ryan Mackenzie, Rob Bresnahan and Rob Mercuri (Pennsylvania); Mayra Flores (Texas) and Derrick Anderson (Virginia).

POLL DU JOUR

- 33% of the "world's population" say inflation is a key issue facing their country.
- 30% cite crime and violence as a key issue.
- 29% cite poverty and social inequality.
- 28% cite unemployment.
- 26% cite financial or political corruption.
- 23% cite the quality of health care.
- 17% cite climate change.
- 10% cite military conflict between nations.
- 8% cite terrorism.
- 4% cite COVID-19.

SOURCE: AN IPSOS GLOBAL ADVISOR POLL OF 25,520 ADULTS LIVING IN ARGENTINA, AUSTRALIA, BELGIUM, BRAZIL, BRITAIN, CANADA, CHILE, COLOMBIA, FRANCE, GERMANY, HUNGARY, INDONESIA, ISRAEL, ITALY, JAPAN, MALAYSIA, MEXICO, THE NETHERLANDS, PERU, POLAND, SINGAPORE, SOUTH AFRICA, SOUTH KOREA, SPAIN, SWEDEN, THE U.S., THAILAND AND TURKEY. THE POLL WAS CONDUCTED JUNE 21-JULY 4 AND RELEASED MONDAY. RESPONDENTS COULD PICK MORE THAN ONE ISSUE.

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IMMIGRATION

GOP announces bill to stop DHS from releasing terrorist migrants into U.S.

By Stephen Dinan
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Sen. Steve Daines announced new legislation Monday to stop Homeland Security from offering "parole" to migrants whom the government has flagged as terrorists or who are otherwise deemed "special interest" because of their origin and travel patterns.

The bill would not only create a bar on Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas but would give states the power to go to a federal judge to force him to comply.

"Joe Biden and Senate Democrats' refusal to secure the southern border has resulted in the loss of American lives, and as long as migrants with

criminal records and potential terrorist ties are being let into the country, our national security is at risk," said Mr. Daines, Montana Republican, who is joined by eight other GOP senators in sponsoring the bill.

The bill comes amid growing worries over the possibility of a foreign terrorist gaining access to the U.S. through its immigration system.

FBI Director Christopher A. Wray last week raised the possibility of terrorists launching a "soft target" attack, similar to the Islamic State attack on a concert hall in Russia this spring. He also pointed to the FBI's work in tracking down Tajik migrants who have been caught and released and only later were determined to be worrying cases.

The legislation covers "known" or "suspected"

terrorists defined as those charged or identified as a terrorist by a U.S. authority, and "special interest aliens," which it defines as those whose "travel patterns" suggest a national security risk.

Homeland Security would be prohibited from granting them parole, a special type of catch-and-release that offers tentative permission to be in the U.S. despite lacking any legal visa to do so.

The key wrinkle to the bill is that it gives state attorneys general the power to sue in federal court to stop releases that violate the law, and urges judges to speed the case.

Parole has become the Biden administration's chief tool for catch-and-release, with Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas inventing multiple new programs

that circumvent the usual immigration process to siphon people into the U.S.

Under the Obama and Trump administrations, parole averaged 5,623 people a year. Mr. Mayorkas may have paroled as many as 1.2 million in the last year alone, according to the top Republican on the Senate Judiciary Committee.

At least one of the eight Tajik men Mr. Wray referred to in his testimony is reported to have entered the U.S. under Mr. Mayorkas' parole authority.

Mr. Daines' bill has already drawn support from Heritage Action, the Immigration Accountability Project, the Federation for American Immigration Reform, NumbersUSA and the America First Policy Institute.



SPENDING

Federal debt crosses \$35 trillion mark

The federal government's total debt now tops \$35 trillion, the Treasury Department reported Monday, marking the latest grim milestone in a deteriorating budget picture.

Uncle Sam is now on the hook for \$35,001,278,179,208. Of that, \$27.8 trillion is debt held by the public, which is the core measure of the country's indebtedness.

The House Budget Committee said total debt increased more than \$2 trillion over the last year and the Peter G. Peterson Foundation, a watchdog, said it will grow another \$1 trillion between now and Election Day.

The number ignited a new round of blame. "We don't have a \$35 trillion-dollar debt because we haven't taxed enough; we have a trillion-dollar debt because we spend too much," said Rep. Jodey Arrington, the committee's chairman.

— Stephen Dinan

Mr. Newsom had the highest unfavorability of the potential picks, with 21% viewing him favorably and 33% viewing him unfavorably.

— Mallory Wilson

2024 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

Harris team opens 3 new Georgia offices

Vice President Kamala Harris' presidential campaign will open three new offices in Georgia this week, saying they expect to keep the state firmly in the blue column in November.

The three new offices are on top of the 24 offices already operating in the Peach State and are part of the campaign's overall spending in competitive Sun Belt states. Ms. Harris' campaign announced the expansion ahead of her scheduled campaign stop in Atlanta on Tuesday.

Dan Kanninen, director of battleground states for the Harris campaign, said they believe Georgia is in play for two key reasons. He said Ms. Harris is talking about issues such as abortion and student debt that resonate with younger voters in the state. That, coupled with criticism of former President Donald Trump by in-state Republicans, will play in Ms. Harris' favor, he said.

— Jeff Mordock

VICE PRESIDENTIAL RACE

Whitmer: Harris pick coming in 6-7 days

Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer said Monday that Vice President Kamala Harris could announce her choice for running mate in a week.

Ms. Whitmer, a co-chair of the Harris campaign, told "CBS Mornings" the decision could be coming soon.

"Everything is truncated, and she's going to make that decision probably in the next six, seven days," she said. "I would imagine we'll know who her running mate is and we'll get ready for the convention."

Ms. Whitmer said that she is not being vetted by Ms. Harris to be her second in command and is completing her term as governor.

— Mallory Wilson



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Republican vice presidential candidate Sen. J.D. Vance will kick off a trip of Mountain West swing states with a pair of events in Nevada on Tuesday and a rally in Arizona on Wednesday.

VICE PRESIDENTIAL RACE

Vance set for first trip to Mountain West swing states

Sen. J.D. Vance of Ohio is heading out this week on his first swing through the Mountain West as Donald Trump's running mate in the race for the White House.

Mr. Vance will kick off the swing-state trip with a pair of events in Nevada on Tuesday and plans to hold a rally the next day in Arizona.

The trip will give 39-year-old Mr. Vance a chance to introduce himself to voters in a pair of battleground states that helped President Biden send Mr. Trump packing in the race for president four years ago.

With three months to go before Election Day, both states appear to be up for grabs in

the presidential race. Voters there will also have the final say in high-profile, competitive Senate races that will help determine which party controls the upper chamber.

Mr. Vance, meanwhile, is getting an early taste of the intense scrutiny that comes with being tapped as a party's vice presidential nominee.

He has faced a barrage of criticism over comments he made in 2021 about Vice President Kamala Harris not having biological children, saying she is one of the "childless cat ladies" who want to "make the rest of the country miserable, too."

— Seth McLaughlin

MALLARD FILLMORE / Bruce Tinsley



LOOK, THIS CHOICE COULDN'T BE MORE CLEAR...MY OPPONENT WILL MAKE YOU RECOIL IN HORROR, WHEREAS I WILL ONLY MAKE YOU CRINGE IN EMBARRASSMENT.

FISHMAN 7-30

The Washington Times

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Politics



Jan. 6 defendant John Strand, who was released last week, said he spent four months in solitary confinement in a federal prison.

JUSTICE DEPARTMENT

'Reduced to a pulse and ... nothing else'

Recently released Jan. 6 defendant endured four months of solitary

By **KERRY PICKET**
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

A Jan. 6 defendant said he spent four months in solitary confinement in federal prison, harsh conditions that could have been avoided in light of the Supreme Court's ruling that the Justice Department overreached when it charged hundreds of the Capitol defendants with felony obstruction.

John Strand, who was released early from prison last week, said federal prison officials in Miami locked him in solitary confinement for four months of his term over accusations ranging from publicly revealing online how far he had to walk to reach a computer, to helping other Jan. 6 defendants in prison receive support from outside groups.

"It's kind of like your entire existence is within a giant concrete shoe box," Mr. Strand, 39, said of the cell where he served his sentence at the Miami Federal Correctional Institution. "It's covered on all sides. There's supposed to be a window, there's usually some sliver of excuse for a window, but it's not much of a window to the outside, so it's almost windowless."

Mr. Strand was sentenced to two years and eight months in prison after a Washington D.C. jury found him guilty of a felony charge of obstruction of an official proceeding and four misdemeanor violations stemming from the Jan. 6, 2021 attack at the Capitol.

But the obstruction charge

was erased after the Supreme Court ruled last month in the case of another Jan. 6 defendant that the government was misapplying the obstruction statute. Federal prosecutors had filed the charge against multiple other defendants in the attack at the Capitol, including Mr. Strand.

The justices ruled that the obstruction charge is intended for cases of tampering with evidence.

Mr. Strand walked out of a Louisiana prison last Wednesday and was a free man after serving one year. He said he is "grateful" for the ruling and had been praying that it would come to pass, though he and his lawyer had expected the high court would rule in favor of Jan. 6 defendants.

Following the high court's decision, Mr. Strand said, U.S. District Judge Christopher Reid Cooper claimed he would have sentenced him to one year in prison anyway, even without the felony conviction. Judge Cooper is an Obama appointee.

"[Judge Cooper] said, if the felony had not been there, but I'd gone to trial, he would have sentenced me to 12 months on a first-time nonviolent misdemeanor," he said in a phone interview. "That's not just crazy. That's like 10 times crazy."

The misdemeanor charges were entering and remaining in a restricted building or grounds, disorderly and disruptive conduct in a restricted building or grounds, disorderly conduct in a Capitol building, and parading, demonstrating

or picketing in a Capitol building.

During a portion of his prison sentence at the Miami facility, Mr. Strand was placed in solitary in the isolation unit.

"It's like a giant steel, rusted red, brownish color. Everything else in the cell is concrete, so it's all grayish, ugly and depressing...and you're reduced to a pulse and almost nothing else," he said.

Prison policy dictates that those locked up in solitary confinement must be granted one hour of "recreation time" or outdoor time per day, but Mr. Strand says they violated their own policy at the Miami facility.

"They don't even honor that. You only get that about 50% of the time, so probably roughly three hours per week that I got access 'rec' was a dog cage," he said. "It's still inside the concrete hut. They just took the ceiling off that portion, so you're still inside four concrete walls, concrete floor and dog cage mesh and razor wire everywhere."

Mr. Strand also said that prison officials did not allow him to shower often while he was in isolation.

"I went through isolation for four straight months where I couldn't shower for up to 72 hours at a time," he said. "I could barely sleep. My skin was crawling."

At the same time, he could hear the screams of other inmates serving their time in solitary confinement. Many of them were long-term inmates.

"There are 25 or 30 of these people in various cells in that isolation unit, and they are raising hell like you can't believe and they basically never stop," he said. "I hyperventilated at one point, because I was just losing my mind at the ruckus. They are going back and forth to each other, sometimes just screaming, bloody murder."

The Washington Times reached out for comment to the Bureau of Prisons and the Miami Federal Corrections Institute.

By last November, Mr. Strand's circumstances reached Capitol Hill during a House hearing when Rep. Matt Gaetz, Florida Republican, confronted Director of the Federal Bureau of Prisons Colette S. Peters about the treatment of Jan. 6 inmates by prison officials.

Ms. Peters responded that "retaliation will not be stood for on her watch" when asked by Mr. Gaetz if the Bureau of Prisons retaliated against people based on "constitutionally protected speech."

Ms. Peters said, "if any-one engages in retaliation, [the Bureau] will hold them accountable."

Mr. Gaetz demanded that he see Mr. Strand himself during a prison visit, and Ms. Peters agreed, but that visit never happened. After the highly publicized hearing, Mr. Strand was transferred from the Miami corrections facility to a federal prison in Oakdale, Louisiana, where he spent the final months of his sentence.

HOUSE

Task force members named in probe of Trump shooting

Pennsylvania's Kelly to lead panel

By **LINDSEY MCPHERSON**
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Rep. Mike Kelly, a Republican who represents the Pennsylvania district where former President Donald Trump was nearly killed at a rally earlier this month, will chair a special House bipartisan task force empaneled to investigate the assassination attempt.

House Speaker Mike Johnson and Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries on Monday announced the lawmakers who will serve on the 13-member task force examining the events surrounding Mr. Trump's July 13 rally in Butler, Pennsylvania, where the Republican presidential nominee was shot by a lone gunman. One person was killed and two others were seriously wounded.

In addition to Mr. Kelly, the other Republican members are Reps. Mark Green of Tennessee, who chairs the Homeland Security Committee; David Joyce of Ohio; Laurel Lee and Michael Waltz of Florida; Clay Higgins of Louisiana and Pat Fallon of Texas.

Rep. Jason Crow, Colorado Democrat, will serve as the ranking member of the task force. The other Democrats on the panel are Reps. Lou Correa of California; Madeleine Dean and Chrissy Houlahan of Pennsylvania; Glenn Ivey of Maryland and Jared Moskowitz of Florida.

"We have the utmost confidence in this bipartisan group of steady, highly qualified, and capable members of Congress to move quickly to find the facts, ensure accountability, and help make certain such failures never happen again," Mr. Johnson and Mr. Jeffries said in a joint statement.

Mr. Johnson and Mr. Jeffries will serve as ex-officio members of the task force, but will not have voting privileges. They each will designate a leadership staffer to have access to task force meetings, hearings, briefings and materials.

The task force, which will have the power to subpoena witnesses and documents, must issue a final report of its findings and recommend any legislative proposals to the House no later than Dec. 13. The panel also can issue interim reports as it deems necessary.

In a rare unanimous vote, the House adopted a resolution last week to establish the task force, 416-0.

Mr. Kelly, an auto dealership owner, grew up and still lives in Butler. He was at Mr. Trump's July 13 rally and authored the resolution to impanel the task force.

"It's important that we don't jump to any conclusions as we begin these investigations," he said in a Newsweek op-ed. "I look forward to working with my

colleagues to get the American people the answers they deserve."

The other task force members have backgrounds in law or the military.

Four of the task force members are Army veterans: Mr. Green and Mr. Crow both served in Iraq and Afghanistan and were awarded the Bronze Star. Mr. Waltz, also a Bronze Star recipient, served in the Special Forces and later as a White House and Pentagon advisor. Mr. Higgins worked in law enforcement after his Army service and maintains an active commission and Peace Officer's Standards and Training certification.

Mr. Fallon and Ms. Houlahan are Air Force veterans.

The bipartisan support for the task force is unlike some past House investigative panels that had partisan origins, such as the special committees that looked into the Jan. 6, 2021, riot at the U.S. Capitol and the Sept. 11, 2012, attack on the U.S. consulate in Benghazi, Libya.

Mr. Johnson proposed the task force to streamline investigations that the House Oversight and Accountability, Homeland Security and Judiciary committees have already started. All three panels held hearings on the assassination attempt last week.

Homeland Security ranking member Rep. Bennie G. Thompson, Mississippi Democrat, was not named to serve on the task force, although his GOP counterpart Mr. Green was selected.

Mr. Thompson reportedly said he was not interested in serving on the panel. Republicans also sought to keep him off it. Mr. Johnson, who had ultimately say over the picks from both parties, communicated to Mr. Jeffries that he didn't think Mr. Thompson would be a good choice.

The House Freedom Caucus took a rare official position urging the speaker to keep Mr. Thompson off the panel, citing a bill he authored that would have denied Secret to Service protection to Mr. Trump if he were sent to prison.

"Americans cannot trust that he will be an unbiased arbiter of the facts," the Freedom Caucus said.

Including Mr. Green, five task force members also serve on the Homeland Security Committee. The others are Mr. Higgins, Mr. Correa, Ms. Lee and Mr. Ivey.

While the top Republicans and Democrats on the Oversight and Judiciary Committees were not named to the task force, four members from each panel were.

Mr. Waltz, Mr. Moskowitz, Mr. Higgins and Mr. Fallon serve on Oversight.

Ms. Lee, Mr. Correa, Ms. Dean and Mr. Ivey serve on Judiciary.

JUSTICE DEPARTMENT

FBI wants 'standard' interview of Trump as victim in assassination attempt

By **STEPHEN DINAN AND MATT DELANEY**
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

The FBI said Monday it does want to interview former President Donald Trump as the victim of the July 13 assassination attempt.

Kevin Rojek, special agent in charge of the FBI's Pittsburgh office, called it a "standard victim interview."

"We want to get his perspective on what he observed," Agent Rojek said, according to the Associated Press.

The announcement comes three days after the FBI belatedly acknowledged that Mr. Trump was struck in the ear by a bullet, either whole or fragmented.

It's not clear why the FBI waited more than two weeks after the shooting to seek out the interview.

The Trump campaign confirmed to The Washington Times last week that the FBI had yet to interview Mr. Trump, who was the target of a 20-year-old gunman at a campaign rally in Butler, Pennsylvania.

A former agent who was part of the investigation into the 1981 shooting of President Reagan said the delay was an "absolute disgrace."

Thomas J. Baker, who was the first FBI agent on the scene of the Reagan shooting, said he quickly assigned two agents to speak with Reagan. They had to wait two days while the president was fighting for his life in the hospital.

Mr. Baker said Reagan — and now Mr. Trump — are "victim-witnesses." Even if they don't end up providing new details, their voice is important, he said.

He said he was struck by FBI

Director Christopher Wray's testimony to Congress on Wednesday because it was clear that the FBI didn't have the former president's perspective.

In particular, Mr. Wray cast doubt on Mr. Trump's view that he was struck by a bullet from the gunman — an assessment shared by the emergency room doctors and the former White House physician. Even The New York Times, after conducting photo and audio analysis, concluded that Mr. Trump was likely struck by the first of the gunman's eight rounds.

On Friday, the FBI backtracked from Mr. Wray's doubt and said the former president was struck in the ear by "a bullet, whether whole or fragmented into smaller pieces, fired from the deceased subject's rifle."

New details also emerged about law enforcement officials

sharing notes about the suspicious behavior of the shooter, Thomas Matthew Crooks, more than 90 minutes before he aimed at Mr. Trump.

Secret Service countersnipers texted each other about Crooks lingering near the Butler County warehouse where he eventually opened fire on Mr. Trump, according to messages obtained by The New York Times.

One sniper, who finished his shift just under two hours before Mr. Trump took the stage, saw the 20-year-old sitting at a picnic table as he left the building. He texted the other two snipers inside the warehouse that Crooks saw him and probably determined more agents were nearby.

Authorities lost track of Crooks until around 5:40 p.m., roughly 35 minutes before shots rang out.

This time one of the countersnipers shared photos of Crooks, and law enforcement was on high alert.

"Kid learning [sic] around building we are in. AGR I believe it is," the agent said. "I did see him with a range finder looking towards stage. FYI. If you wanna notify SS snipers to look out. I lost sight of him."

Two minutes later, another agent responded, "Call it in to command and have a uniform check it out."

Two Butler Township police officers were sent to find Crooks. An officer hoisted the other officer up over the edge of the warehouse roof. Crooks then pointed his AR-15-style rifle at the officer, who fell to the ground to take cover.

Moments later, Crooks fired eight rounds, killing one rally-goer,

wounding two others and grazing Mr. Trump's right ear.

Secret Service snipers killed Crooks within seconds after he opened fire.

Little is known about Crooks' motive.

Investigators found photos of several high-profile figures on his phone, including Mr. Trump, President Biden, Attorney General Merrick Garland and FBI Director Christopher Wray.

He registered for the Butler rally on July 7, though he looked up speaking dates for Mr. Biden and the Democratic National Convention.

He also researched Michigan school shooter Ethan Crumbley and how far away Lee Harvey Oswald was when he assassinated President John F. Kennedy in 1963. Crooks fired from about 150 yards from Mr. Trump.

SUPREME COURT

Biden: Court's 'extreme opinions' necessitate new rules on justices

BY JEFF MORDOCK AND ALEX SWOYER
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

President Biden called Monday for legislation to bring major changes to the Supreme Court, saying its "extreme opinions" intrude on Americans' freedoms and necessitate new guardrails such as term limits for justices and an enforceable code of ethics.

Vice President Kamala Harris, who quickly became the Democrats' presumptive presidential nominee after Mr. Biden bowed out of the race, said she was completely onboard with the overhaul to fix a "clear crisis of confidence" with the high court's conservative majority.

In a speech in Texas, Mr. Biden ticked off a litany of decisions by the Supreme Court that he and Ms. Harris disagreed with, depicting the justices as out-of-control ideologues bent

on distorting the law to their conservative ideology. Among the decisions Mr. Biden cited were the ruling granting presidents broad immunity and overturning *Roe v. Wade*.

"In recent years, extreme opinions that the Supreme Court has handed down have undermined long-established civil rights principles and protections," Mr. Biden said.

He said he expects even more bad decisions to come from the court if his proposed changes are not implemented.

"So many other civil rights that Americans take for granted are likely to come before the court in the years to come," he said.

The proposal, however, was more political than practical. It has no chance of advancing in the narrowly divided Congress but will serve as a rallying cry for

Democratic candidates for both chambers.

House Speaker Mike Johnson accused Mr. Biden of trying to "delegitimize" the court.

"President Biden's proposal to radically overhaul the U.S. Supreme Court would tilt the balance of power and erode not only the rule of law, but the American people's faith in our system of justice," Mr. Johnson, Louisiana Republican, said.

"It is telling that Democrats want to change the system that has guided our nation since its founding simply because they disagree with some of the court's recent decisions," he said. "This dangerous gambit of the Biden-Harris administration is dead on arrival in the House."

Mr. Biden delivered the remarks at the Lyndon B. Johnson Presidential Library in Austin, Texas, to celebrate the 60th

anniversary of the Civil Rights Act. The event was scheduled earlier this month but had been postponed after an assassination attempt on former President Donald Trump, the GOP nominee.

"We have certainly needed reforms to restore trust in the court, preserve the system of checks and balances that are vital to our democracy," Mr. Biden said, comparing his Supreme Court overhaul to the struggle for Civil Rights.

Mr. Biden, 81, argued that lifetime appointments to the Supreme Court give presidents undue influence decades after their term has ended. He has proposed a system in which a president would appoint a justice every two years to spend 18 years on the bench.

He also proposed a code of conduct that would require

justices to disclose gifts, retain from public or political activities, and recuse themselves from cases in which their spouses or others have financial conflicts of interest.

The high court has been targeted by Democrats and their allies in the mainstream news media since a conservative 6-3 majority was appointed under President Trump.

A Marquette University poll in May revealed the approval rating for the Supreme Court was at 39%, its second lowest since 2020.

A spokesperson from the Supreme Court did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Mr. Biden championed a Supreme Court committee when he first took office to envision the Supreme Court, which issued its report in 2021, but the president has done little with the committee's recommendations until now.

In an op-ed in The Washington Post, Mr. Biden declared his "great respect for our institutions and separation of powers" but said that "what is happening now is not normal."

The justices split ideologically earlier this month, ruling that presidents enjoy absolute immunity from criminal prosecution for actions taken under their core presidential functions, presumed immunity for all official acts, and no immunity for nonofficial acts.

The challenge was brought by Mr. Trump seeking immunity from prosecution in the election fraud case brought by special counsel Jack Smith.

The ruling frustrated liberals as the decision delayed the election fraud case and other cases pending against the former president.

• Mallory Wilson contributed to this report.

HARRIS

From page A1

payroll records.

Half of her staff listed on public payroll records quit in the past year, the organization calculated.

"Taxpayers can draw their own conclusions about Harris' management or leadership style, but what we found corroborates comments from former staffers that the vice president is difficult to work for," said Adam Andrzejewski, CEO of OpenTheBooks.

High turnover in the White House isn't new, but Ms. Harris' numbers are higher than others.

In the same time span, President Trump experienced a 72% turnover rate and President Biden had 77% turnover.

Vice President Mike Pence hired 29 employees during his first year in the Trump administration, and five remained on staff after three years, indicating an 83% turnover rate.

Ms. Harris hired 49 staffers and retained only four three years later.

Past employees described a toxic and

dysfunctional environment in the vice president's office that seemed to worsen as Ms. Harris' approval ratings sank.

Office management troubles go back even further in her career.

In a Nov. 5, 2019, article, Nevada County (California) Planning Commissioner Terry McAteer said Ms. Harris treated his son and other staffers poorly when he served as her intern while she was the state's attorney general.

"Senator Harris vocally throws around 'F-bombs' and other profanity constantly in her berating of staff and others. The staff is in complete fear of her and she uses her profanity throughout the day," Mr. McAteer wrote. "As Attorney General, Senator Harris instructed her entire staff to stand every morning as she entered the office and say, 'Good Morning General.'"

He said Ms. Harris never once introduced herself to his son, who was instructed "to never address Harris or look her in the eye as that privilege was only allowed to senior staff members."

Mr. McAteer's son could not be reached for comment and did not

respond to an inquiry through social media.

The exodus of the vice president's top aides triggered multiple rounds of news reports questioning whether Ms. Harris could hold a qualified office team together.

Some former top staffers have remained silent about her sudden political leap and have not even posted about it on social media.

Former spokeswoman Symone Sanders-Townsend fully endorsed Ms. Harris for president but hinted at the difficulties of working for her.

She said on MSNBC last week that Ms. Harris is known for "the grilling," which she said could be an advantage in a race against former President Donald Trump.

"Former staff like to refer to it as putting someone on the witness stand," Ms. Sanders-Townsend said. "She knows how to do that quite well."

Ms. Sanders-Townsend said she once told the vice president, who was often the subject of criticism over her performance, "Ma'am, you might be the last woman I work for because it's a lot that

we got to deal with over in here."

She said outside criticism of Ms. Harris "did not deter her."

Mr. Andrzejewski said Ms. Harris' vice presidential office is concealing the full roster of employees and their salaries, breaking with past vice presidents and presidents who disclose staff and salaries, all of which are funded by taxpayers.

Although Open the Books obtained at least a partial list through congressional records, the Harris vice presidential office has claimed to be exempt and rejected public information requests to provide all the information.

Open the Books, in conjunction with another watchdog organization, is preparing to sue for the information.

"Kamala Harris is the least transparent elected official in the entire country. We don't know anyone else that gets to shield their spending," Mr. Andrzejewski said.

The Harris campaign did not respond to an inquiry for this report. The Washington Times also reached out to a half dozen former Harris staffers, who did not respond.



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Political strategist Symone Sanders-Townsend said she once told Vice President Kamala Harris, "Ma'am, you might be the last woman I work for."

COLLEGE

From page A1

and science.

Critics have accused the College Board of slackening scoring to attract more students to pay for AP exams as four-year colleges struggle with rising costs and falling enrollments.

"The College Board is probably looking at a materially significant decline in revenue," said Gary Stocker, a former chief of staff at private Westminster College in Missouri and founder of College Viability, which evaluates campuses' financial stability. "They are adjusting their scoring to incent more students to pay and take AP exams."

At \$98 per exam, the AP system generated about \$500 million in revenue for the College Board in 2022, or roughly half the nonprofit group's \$1.04 billion budget.

Mr. Stocker pointed out that more than half of all public and private four-year colleges don't graduate 50% of their students in four years.

"I believe the changes to the AP scoring methodology by the College Board are primarily driven by profit," said Shaan Patel, founder and CEO of Prep Expert, a Las Vegas company that offers private tutoring for AP exams. "Yes, these changes do 'dumb down' the tests."

Mr. Patel pointed to College Board data showing that the number of public high school graduates who took an AP Exam increased from 31.5% of the class of 2013 to 34.7% of the class of 2023.

Surging scores

The College Board estimates that 1.2 million public high school seniors took more than 4 million AP exams in 2022.

According to the nonprofit, the share of students scoring an "extremely qualified" 5 on the AP English literature exam



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Conservatives have accused the College Board of trying to fill classroom desks by adding trendy topics to the list of AP courses. Recent additions to the course catalog include AP African American studies, which will be offered in August.

increased from 5% in 2021 to 17% in 2022 as the scoring system changed.

Over the same period, the share of "well-qualified" 4s jumped from 12% to 27% and the share of 3s increased from 27% to 34%.

Meanwhile, the share of "possibly qualified" scores of 2 plunged from 37% to 14% and "not qualified" scores of 1 fell from 19% to 8% of tested students.

"Yes, the exams are getting easier, but it is entirely possible that they were too difficult in the first place, just as the College Board has claimed," said John Moscatiello, a New Jersey high school teacher who founded the company Marco Learning to help schools build AP programs.

Mr. Moscatiello, who attended the AP annual conference in Las Vegas last week, is one of several critics who have slammed the College Board in articles for not sharing the data behind the changes.

"Many people are raising concerns that the end result of this score increase will be a diminishing of standards," he

added in an email. "At the end of the day, the increase in scores of 3 or higher is staggering and changes the AP program in a fundamental way."

According to the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center, undergraduate college enrollment fell by more than 900,000 students, or nearly 6% of total enrollment, from fall 2019 to fall 2023.

In a July 22 news release, the College Board said it implemented the new scoring system in nine AP exams that were not reaching the desired minimum of 60% of students earning at least a 3.

Each exam subsequently exceeded that target pass rate this spring: AP world history (64%), AP English literature (72%), AP biology (68%), AP macroeconomics (62%), AP microeconomics (65%), AP chemistry (75%), AP U.S. government (73%), AP U.S. history (72%) and AP European history (72%).

The College Board pointed out that 72% of students who took the AP U.S. history exam this year earned a 3 or

higher, compared with 84% who got at least a C in the class.

Advocates of the changes said these results speak for themselves.

"They've appropriately replaced [an old model] with a new model that uses much larger data sets, involves hundreds of faculty members, and can be updated in real time," said Len Jessup, former president of the public University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

Mr. Jessup added in an email that the new scoring system may be "just now better at reflecting an underlying trend."

Declining value

The AP test scoring has changed as colleges eliminate many core humanities requirements for freshmen, making four-year degrees more accessible and affordable.

Some say that trend could weaken the appeal of AP testing for students who have traditionally relied on the exams to save on tuition by graduating faster.

Other pressures on the AP system include a surge in high school students taking dual-enrollment courses at community colleges.

"This shift [in AP grading] will hurt higher education by helping students skip countless college courses and graduate in three or even two years," said Robert Weissberg, a retired University of Illinois political scientist and expert in pedagogy. "The impact will be especially large in English and some of the humanities and social sciences."

According to the latest data from the National Student Clearinghouse, dual enrollment of high school students up to age 17 rose by 10% at all colleges from spring 2023 to spring 2024, accounting for 28.1% of undergraduate enrollment increases in the spring.

"In my opinion, I think they made the test easier so more students would be apt to take the AP courses because

a lot of kids now are doing dual enrollment, which seems to be replacing the AP classes," said Julie Giordano, the executive of Wicomico County in eastern Maryland and a former high school English teacher. "Why would anyone risk getting lower than a 3 on an AP test when they can get college credits just for going to class and completing mediocre work?"

For more than a decade, high school teachers have observed a trend of seniors piling up AP courses, which have weighted grades, to enhance their GPAs for college applications. They say these students have little interest in putting in the preparatory work for the notoriously difficult AP exams.

At the same time, conservatives have criticized the College Board for adding trendy topics to the list of AP courses to attract students and encourage them to pay for exams.

Recent additions to the course catalog include AP African American studies, which will be offered for the first time in August.

"The lack of clarity in AP curricula and exams is unacceptable for an organization that wields such massive influence over the schooling of millions of American children," said Timothy K. Minella, a senior fellow at the conservative Goldwater Institute. "Students of all backgrounds do not benefit from this lowering of the bar."

Chester E. Finn Jr., a distinguished fellow and former president at the Thomas B. Fordham Institute, a conservative education think tank, predicted that top colleges will raise the bar for AP scores as more students pass.

"It's no secret that colleges resist losing tuition dollars," said Mr. Finn, who has written against the change in AP scoring. "And the more students who seek credit upon arrival, the more loath they'll be to confer it."

IRS

From page A1

agency is rewarding its own tax dodgers with paychecks and lavish benefits made possible, ironically, with the taxes paid by you, me, and other hardworking Americans," Ms. Ernst said.

She has written legislation to ban the IRS from employing anyone with "seriously delinquent tax debts" and to require the agency to submit an annual review of its workers.

Of the 70 willful tax cheats the IRS flagged within its workforce over an 18-month period from 2021 to 2023, 20 were

"removed" from the agency.

Another 47 were suspended. The fate of the other three was redacted from the public version of the audit, though based on the inspector's past work, they likely retired or resigned.

"Although the law requires an employee who has either willfully not filed or willfully understated their taxes due to be removed, subject only to the IRS Commissioner's mitigation, this disciplinary action is not always enforced," the inspector general said.

In its official response, the IRS said the commissioner exercised that discretion in each of those cases after receiving a recommendation from a review board.

Traci M. DiMartini, the IRS human capital officer, said the agency reviewed more than 2,000 employees the inspector general flagged as having outstanding taxes as of May 6, 2023. As of June, 58% of them had resolved their issues to the agency's satisfaction.

The IRS official said the report gave the IRS a generally clean bill of health. It found that the agency "has policies and procedures in place to detect and remedy employee and contractor tax non-compliance."

The IRS also subscribes to "progressive discipline," meaning employees are given the "least serious" punishment initially and stiffer penalties for further offenses.

The inspector general also found that the IRS had rehired former employees with black marks in agency employment files. That included 13 willful tax cheats and 34 deemed to have accessed taxpayer information that was required to be kept secret.

The inspector general made two recommendations in the audit, including requiring the IRS human capital officer to follow up on the employees flagged and make sure their taxes have been filed and their balances paid.

Ms. DiMartini disagreed. She said her office doesn't have the power to collect or enforce tax laws, even on agency employees.

She said the agency has reviewed all the flagged people and ensured someone is addressing the problems.

The inspector general said it "appears" that addresses the issue.

A 2015 report looked at a 10-year period and found 1,580 employees who willfully evaded their taxes. Of those, 61% were allowed to remain at the IRS.

That means the agency has become more lenient, allowing 67% of the current tax evaders to remain on the job.

After the 2015 report, the IRS said it would adopt rules to require documentation when the agency kept employees on the job despite willful tax evasion.

VENEZUELA

From page A1

Caracas was said to be tense but peaceful as both sides rushed to shore up their claims to electoral victory.

Moscow and Beijing congratulated Mr. Maduro on his “victory” shortly after Venezuela’s National Electoral Council, which is loyal to Mr. Maduro’s ruling socialist party, announced the results.

Leaders across Latin America said the election must be fully reviewed.

According to the official government totals, 51% of the vote Sunday went to Mr. Maduro and 44% to Mr. Gonzalez. Those figures differ wildly from independent exit polling conducted by Edison Research, which sampled nearly 7,000 voters at 100 polling sites across Venezuela.

About 65% of voters backed Mr. Gonzalez, compared with just 31% for Mr. Maduro, according to those Edison exit surveys.

Mr. Maduro, a protege of the late anti-U.S. populist Hugo Chavez seeking a third six-year term, sought to stop a brewing political crisis before it had the chance to start. He appeared Monday at a nationally televised ceremony and unequivocally declared victory.

“We have never been moved by hatred. On the contrary, we have always been victims of the powerful,” he said. “An attempt is being made to impose a coup d’etat in Venezuela again of a fascist and counterrevolutionary nature.

“We already know this movie, and this time, there will be no kind of weakness,” Mr. Maduro said.

Before Mr. Maduro’s public comments, Mr. Gonzalez made clear that he did not believe the official figures from



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Protesters smashed an advertising board during demonstrations Monday against the official election results declaring President Nicolas Maduro’s reelection. Polls showed voters widely favoring his opponent, Edmundo Gonzalez Urrutia.

Caracas, where Mr. Maduro’s United Socialist Party of Venezuela controls all three branches of government.

“Venezuelans and the entire world know what happened,” said Mr. Gonzalez, urging his supporters to remain calm.

It wasn’t immediately clear what Mr. Gonzalez intended to do next. Legal challenges are a certainty, though the tight grip of Mr. Maduro’s party over the Venezuelan political system means such challenges may accomplish little.

Mr. Maduro’s socialist party has controlled Caracas for 25 years, beginning with Chavez’s ascent to power in 1999. Under pressure to ease harsh U.S. and international sanctions on his economy, Mr. Maduro sought reelection to his

third six-year term amid deep turmoil.

Venezuela sits atop the world’s largest oil reserves and once boasted Latin America’s most advanced economy. After Mr. Maduro came to power, the economy tumbled into a free fall marked by plummeting oil prices, widespread shortages of basic goods and hyperinflation of 130,000%.

Taking sides

Global powers split over whether to accept the official election results from Caracas. Speaking to reporters in Tokyo, Secretary of State Antony Blinken cast doubt on the Venezuelan government’s tallies.

“We have serious concerns that the

result announced does not reflect the will or the votes of the Venezuelan people,” Mr. Blinken said. “It’s critical that every vote be counted fairly and transparently, that election officials immediately share information with the opposition and independent observers without delay, and that the electoral authorities publish the detailed tabulation of votes. The international community is watching this very closely and will respond accordingly.”

Josep Borrell, the European Union’s top diplomat, expressed similar sentiments.

“The people of Venezuela voted on the future of their country peacefully. ... Your will must be respected,” he said in a post on X, according to English-language translations. “It is vital to ensure full transparency of the electoral process, including detailed vote counting and access to polling station voting records.”

At least eight Latin American nations called for an emergency meeting of the Organization of American States.

“We are putting diplomatic relations on hold until a complete review of the voting records and of the voting computer system is carried out,” Panamanian President Jose Raul Mulino said at a news conference, according to Reuters.

China and Russia took the opposite tack, as did friendly left-leaning Western Hemisphere regimes in Cuba and Bolivia.

“China congratulates Venezuela on the smooth presidential election and congratulates President Nicolas Maduro on his successful reelection. China and Venezuela are good friends and partners that support each other,” Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian told reporters at a press conference in Beijing.

In Moscow, Russian President Vladimir Putin congratulated Mr. Maduro and said he hopes their two nations can “continue our constructive joint work on key issues on the bilateral and international agenda.”

For Russia and China, Venezuela is an important military, economic and diplomatic ally in the Western Hemisphere.

Venezuela provides China with a significant amount of oil, among other ties. Russia views Venezuela as a strategically vital military partner. Earlier this month, two Russian warships docked at the Venezuelan port of La Guaira after exercises in the Atlantic Ocean.

The Biden administration earlier this year offered to ease economic sanctions if Mr. Maduro agreed to allow free and fair elections. The offer sparked criticism on Capitol Hill.

“I am concerned but not surprised that Nicolas Maduro is tightening his grip on Venezuela,” Sen. James E. Risch of Idaho, the top Republican on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said in a statement Monday. “To be sure, Maduro is reaping the benefits of three years of appeasement policies by the Biden-Harris administration.”

The senior U.S. official would not detail the Biden administration’s next steps as the election results are being tabulated but said Washington was prepared to rally allies in the region and globally against any attempt to steal the election.

“I don’t think we’re going to get into the details of how we would respond, but I will note that numerous nations and institutions in the international community have already expressed concerns about the current situation,” the official said.

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

GENOCIDE

From page A1

Research Council and The Washington Times Foundation.

Though Beijing does not operate death camps or fill mass graves, the central government’s policy toward the people of the two regions represents “slow-motion” genocide, experts say.

“Not every massacre or war crime is a genocide,” said Marco Respinti, director of Bitter Winter, a magazine focused on religious liberty and human rights. “To have a genocide, you have to have the intention to destroy an entire portion of humankind, you have to make a project to do that and you have to make tools you need.”

Chinese leaders angrily denounce the charge of genocide. They are particularly furious that the Trump administration and then the Biden administration formally declared Beijing’s policies against the local ethnic Muslim Uyghur population of Xinjiang a genocide.

“There has never been so-called genocide, forced labor or religious oppression in Xinjiang,” Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi told a meeting of the United Nations Human Rights Council in 2021. “Such inflammatory accusations are fabricated out of ignorance and prejudice. They are simply malicious and politically driven hype and couldn’t be further from the truth.”

Long, slow process

Neither a sudden event nor a shock policy, genocide usually builds over a long period.

Xinjiang, which many Uyghurs call Eastern Turkestan, was occupied by China in 1949. Tibet was annexed by force in 1950. Natives of both say the ruling Chinese Communist Party’s policies of cultural liquidation have accelerated since President Xi Jinping took office in 2013.

In 2014, Mr. Xi was said to have



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Authorities in China’s western Xinjiang region have been systematically replacing the names of villages inhabited by Uyghurs and other ethnic minorities to reflect the Communist Party’s ideology, as part of an attack on their cultural identity.

expressed surprise and unhappiness on a visit to the Xinjiang city of Kahsgard.

“Some reports said he asked, ‘Why are Uyghurs still Uyghurs?’” said Omer Kanat, president of the Uyghur Human Rights Project. “He criticized officials ... and they decided to forcefully assimilate the Uyghur people.”

Systemic assimilation policies “turned into genocide in 2017,” Mr. Kanat said.

“One of the most current, pressing human rights issues” facing Tibetans — forced indoctrination of children — began to be enforced after 2016, Mr. Tseten said.

“The CCP is conducting three

genocides,” said Sam Brownback, the U.S. ambassador-at-large for international religious freedom during the Trump administration. He added a Han Chinese group to the Tibetans and Uyghurs.

Targeting the faithful

China’s critics say that, just as the Nazis exterminated followers of Judaism, Beijing is targeting those with strong religious identities: Tibetan Buddhists, Uyghur adherents of Islam, and Chinese Falun Gong, which combines Buddhist and Taoist teachings with breathing and meditation exercises.

“It makes sense that authoritarian

regimes fear faith,” said Katrina Lantos Swett, co-chair of the Tokyo religious freedom summit. “What they need is control of their populations, but if people have acquired convictions, they are much harder to control.”

According to Chinese regulations, “all religious venues should have permissions, all [religious] teachers should have certifications and have ‘Xi Jinping ideology,’” said Tsewang Gyalpo Arya, the Dalai Lama’s representative for Japan and East Asia. “Where is the religion?”

Ethnic identities and religious practices are replaced with uniform identities and party-approved practices. Among the worst abuses are torture, disappearances and organ harvesting. More mainstream methods of control include heavy police presence and mass detentions in camps.

“The purpose of the camps is to break lineage, roots and connections to origins — to eliminate the Uyghurs as an ethnic identity in China,” Mr. Kanat said. He estimates that “tens of thousands” from all walks of life have been incarcerated.

Since 2016, Tibetan children as young as 5 have been wrenched from their families and placed in “colonial boarding schools.”

“When children come out, their connection with their families has changed,” Mr. Tseten said. “They can’t speak Tibetan, they forget their traditions and are not able to communicate with their families.

“Some of them even become critical of their grandparents,” he said. “They ask them, ‘Why don’t you know Chinese? Why are you not like other Chinese?’”

Technology and repression

To prevent free expression and free assembly, “authoritarian regimes have technologies they only dreamed of in the past,” Mr. Brownback said.

A security web that synchronizes high technologies, from CCTV camera networks to spyware embedded in personal digital devices, allows for

ubiquitous and never-resting artificial intelligence monitoring of the population.

“Families cannot communicate with each other,” said Ilham Mahmut, chairman of Japan’s Uyghur Cultural Center. “People got skeptical about each other, even within the family.”

He said he speaks from personal experience. “The last time I communicated with my mother was in April 2017. She said, ‘Please don’t call me. I’ll call you if something happens.’”

With the human cost comes repression in the physical space. Structures central to religious culture, notably mosques and monasteries, are being destroyed or repurposed.

Speakers at the Tokyo gathering urged citizens to demand action from their governments. The U.N. Human Rights Office warned in 2022 that China may be committing crimes against humanity. The Dutch government has joined the U.S. in labeling Beijing’s policies genocidal.

Other countries need to add pressure, particularly from inside China’s region. “We’ve got to have strong Asian democracies stand up,” Mr. Brownback said.

Mr. Respinti said those who plan and implement the genocidal policies should be held to account, but the clock is ticking.

“In 10 or 20 or 30 years, you won’t have identifiable religious or ethnic groups, and it will be ‘mission accomplished,’” he said. “When they can’t practice their religion or can’t speak Tibetan or Uyghur or do not understand it, when it is just the standardized language and culture of China, what’s left?”

Mr. Tseten, born overseas, said he dreams of a Tibetan homeland he has never seen.

“I know where my village is and what it looks like. I live with the memory of Tibet through my parents and grandparents,” he said. “Deep down, I feel one day I will go, when the people in my village and across Tibet will be free from fear to practice what they want, to continue to do what their forefathers have done.”

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A 2019 police shootout with two robbers left a hijacked UPS driver and a passerby dead. A Florida police union leader blasted prosecutors Monday, saying four officers involved had no choice but to return fire on a busy suburban street.

FLORIDA

Police union leader warns of 'chilling effect' of case against officers

Two killed in crossfire with robbers

By **TERRY SPENCER**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

FORT LAUDERDALE, FLA. | A Florida police union leader blasted prosecutors Monday for bringing a criminal case against four officers over a 2019 shootout with two robbers that left a UPS driver and a passerby dead, saying they had no choice but to return fire on the busy suburban street.

Steadman Stahl, president of the South Florida Police Benevolent Association, said that by bringing the case, Broward County prosecutors are sending the message that officers could face charges if they fire at shooters while hostages or other innocent people are nearby. That "could have a chilling effect" on how they respond, he said.

"Those officers didn't pick that location to have that shootout in. It's the bad guys," Mr. Stahl said after a hearing where the officers' trial was scheduled to begin Feb. 17. "Unfortunately, two [innocent] people lost their lives out there. Our hearts go out to them. Nobody wanted that to happen."

A grand jury indicted Miami-Dade County Officers Rodolfo Mirabal, Jose Mateo, Richard Santiesteban and Leslie Lee last month on manslaughter charges in the death of 27-year-old UPS driver Frank Ordonez after a four-year investigation by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement.

Officer Mirabal is also charged in the death of Richard Cutshaw, a 70-year-old union negotiator, who was shot while driving nearby.

Blame for their deaths needs to be placed on the robbers, 41-year-old cousins Lamar Alexander and Ronnie Jerome Hill, who also died in the shootout, Mr. Stahl said. Alexander and Hill could have surrendered, but they chose "to go out in a blaze of glory," he said.

All four officers have pleaded not guilty and were freed without bail. They face a maximum sentence of 30 years if convicted, but as first-time offenders that would be unlikely.

About 20 officers fired at the van. Prosecutors have not said why only the four officers were charged. Mr. Stahl guessed their bullets accidentally hit Ordonez, while a bullet Officer Mirabal fired hit Cutshaw. No officers are

charged in the robbers' deaths.

Mr. Stahl pointed out that the same prosecutors charged fired Broward County sheriff's Deputy Scot Peterson for not pursuing the shooter who murdered 17 people at Parkland's Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in 2018. Mr. Peterson was acquitted of child neglect charges last year.

"We have the same prosecutor that prosecuted officers for not engaging an active shooter, and the same prosecutor now is going after officers for engaging," Mr. Stahl said. "Makes no sense."

Broward State Attorney Harold Pryor declined to comment Monday. In a statement last month, he said: "Deciding whether to use deadly force is among the most serious and consequential decisions a police officer can make. We understand that these decisions are often made during intense and uncertain circumstances."

Officers Mateo and Mirabal are still employed by Miami-Dade police. Mr. Lee retired three years ago and Mr. Santiesteban was fired, the Miami Herald reported.

Under Florida law, manslaughter is an unlawful killing committed while demonstrating "culpable negligence" — that is defined as an act that shows "a wanton or reckless disregard for human life."

Alexander and Hill robbed Regent Jewelers in the Miami suburb of Coral Gables on the afternoon of Dec. 5, 2019. When officers arrived, shots were being fired inside. A store worker was hit in the head by a ricochet, but survived.

The robbers fled and hijacked Ordonez's van while he was inside. They led officers on a long chase into southern Broward County that attracted television news helicopters, which broadcast it live nationally.

The hijackers fired from inside the van, which finally stopped in the middle lane at a busy intersection, caught behind a wall of vehicles at a red light.

Witnesses said gunfire suddenly erupted as officers ran between cars toward the van. Ordonez, Alexander and Hill were killed inside the vehicle. Cutshaw was found dead in his car. Investigators have not said whether Ordonez and Cutshaw were shot by police, the robbers or both.

EDUCATION

Thousands of schools exempt from Title IX rule under escape clause

By **VALERIE RICHARDSON**
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

It turns out that thousands of schools have at least one student with a parent who belongs to Moms for Liberty.

More than 2,000 schools in 45 states will be exempt from the Biden administration's final rule adding "gender identity" to Title IX, based on a judge's order blocking the regulations from taking effect at any school with a Moms for Liberty parent.

Kansas Attorney General Kris Kobach submitted to the U.S. District Court for Kansas on Friday an "initial list of the K-12 schools attended by the children of its members," a 63-page document listing K-12 schools with the Moms for Liberty connection.

U.S. District Judge John Broomes granted a temporary injunction on July 2 to four states challenging the Title IX rewrite — Kansas, Alaska, Utah and Wyoming — as well as schools with a Moms for Liberty parent, or at least one student who belongs to Young America's Foundation or Female Athletes United.

Two weeks ago, the plaintiffs turned in a list of more than 670 colleges, universities and other higher-education institutions in 50 states with a Young America's Foundation or Female Athletes United member, meaning that the entire institution falls under the injunction.

"The list includes 364 colleges and universities in 26 states that aren't currently suing the Biden administration over the regulations," said Inside Higher Ed, which provided a searchable format for the colleges covered by the court injunction.

The court order creates an administrative headache for the Department of Education as it seeks to enforce the rule in a patchwork of schools, in some cases holding schools within the same district to different Title IX standards.

The department urged the court earlier this month to limit the scope of the injunction to members of the organization as of the court filing or injunction, but Judge Broomes refused, calling it "a problem of DoE's own making."

"As the court suggested in its prior order, Congress has given DoE at least one tool to mitigate the hardships that its new rule imposes on those who are



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More than 2,000 schools in 45 states have at least one parent who belongs to Moms for Liberty. Therefore, those schools will be exempt from the Biden administration's final rule adding "gender identity" to Title IX.

subject to it while the judicial review process plays out in courts across the country," the judge said in his July 19 order. "Congress gave DoE the authority to postpone the effective date of the Final Rule pending judicial review. Maybe DoE should use that authority."

What's more, Judge Broomes extended the deadline to submit the list of schools from July 15 to July 26. He also said that more schools could be added as parents join the groups.

"This court's ruling did not state that it was limited to individuals who were members of a Plaintiff Organization on a certain date," said Judge Broomes, a Trump appointee. "Individuals are free to join or leave an organization whenever they so choose."

Moms for Liberty said its membership list "will be periodically updated as more and more members choose to add their child's school to the list and ensure they will be safe from Title IX overreach."

The parental rights group said it continues to enroll members on its website with an opt-in feature for parents who seek "to protect their children's schools from the implementation of the Biden Administration's Title IX redo for gender ideology in K-12 education."

Membership in Moms for Liberty is free.

The list of schools submitted to the court includes nearly 60 in Virginia, including schools in the Culpepper, Fairfax, Fauquier and Prince William counties; and 37 schools in Maryland, including those in the counties of Anne Arundel, Frederick, Howard and Montgomery.

No public schools in the District of Columbia were listed.

Federal judges have blocked the Title IX redo from taking effect in 21 states pending the outcome of the lawsuits, as well as at least two school districts. The rule is scheduled to take effect Aug. 1.

The administration has defended its final rule, which extends Title IX's protections against sex-based discrimination in education to biological males who identify as female.

"Title IX guarantees that no person experience sex discrimination in a federally-funded educational environment," a DOE spokesperson said. "The department crafted the final Title IX regulations following a rigorous process to realize the Title IX statutory guarantee. The department stands by the final Title IX regulations released in April 2024, and we will continue to fight for every student."

ECONOMY

After two years of aggressive rate hikes, Fed expects reduction in September

By **CHRISTOPHER RUGABER**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Two years after launching an aggressive fight against inflation and one year after leaving its benchmark interest rate at a near-quarter-century high, the Federal Reserve is expected to signal this week that it expects to reduce borrowing costs as soon as September.

A rate reduction this fall — the first since the pandemic — would amount to a momentous shift and a potential boost to the economy. Fed rate cuts, over time, typically lower borrowing costs for such things as mortgages, auto loans and credit cards.

A single cut in the Fed's key rate, now at roughly 5.3%, wouldn't by itself make much difference to the economy. Financial markets widely expect it and some borrowing costs already have dropped slightly in anticipation of the move.

As a result, the main question for the central bank will be: How fast and how far

will the policymakers ultimately cut rates?

It's a question of keen interest to both major presidential candidates, too. Any signal that the Fed will rapidly cut rates could boost the economy and potentially lift Vice President Kamala Harris' election prospects. Former President Donald Trump has argued that the Fed shouldn't cut rates until its next meeting, in November, which will come two days after the election.

Futures markets have priced in a 64% likelihood that the Fed will cut rates three times this year, in September, November and December, according to CME FedWatch. As recently as last month, Fed officials had collectively forecast just one rate reduction in 2024 and four in 2025 and 2026.

How the economy fares in the coming months will likely determine how quickly the Fed acts. Should growth remain solid and employers keep hiring, the Fed would prefer to take its time and cut rates slowly as inflation continues

to decline.

"They want to be very gradual in how they pull back," said Gennadiy Goldberg, head of U.S. rates strategy at TD Securities.

"But if the labor market actually looks like it's slowing down," Mr. Goldberg suggested, Fed officials might conclude that "they should be moving a little bit quicker than they otherwise would."

There are signs that the labor market is cooling, as the Fed has intended. Job growth has averaged a decent but unspectacular 177,000 a month for the past three months, down from a red-hot three-month average of 275,000 a year ago.

It's not yet clear whether that cooling reflects a return of the economy to a more sustainable, less inflationary period of growth or whether the cooling will continue until the economy slides into a recession.

"That's the million-dollar question at this point," Mr. Goldberg said.

ABORTION

Minnesota prepares for influx of clients from Iowa as ban is to take effect

ASSOCIATED PRESS

BLOOMINGTON, MINN. | Minnesota medical providers and public officials were preparing to welcome patients traveling from Iowa, where a ban on most abortions after about six weeks of pregnancy went into effect Monday.

On Thursday, Minnesota Lt. Gov. Peggy Flanagan, a Democrat, toured Whole Woman's Health of Minnesota, a nonprofit abortion clinic in Bloomington. She welcomed Iowa residents who were seeking abortions after the state's new restrictions take effect.

Previously, abortion was legal up to 20 weeks of pregnancy in Iowa. Last July, the state's Republican-controlled Legislature passed a new ban on the procedure after six weeks of pregnancy, which is often before women know they are pregnant. There are limited exceptions in cases of rape, incest, fetal abnormality or when the life of the mother is in danger.

Dr. Sarah Traxler, an OB-GYN in Minnesota and the chief medical officer of Planned Parenthood North Central States, said Iowa's law could have ripple

effects across the region.

"When the Dobbs decision came down, many of the patients coming to Iowa were from Missouri," Dr. Traxler said in an interview with Minnesota Public Radio. "This is going to have resounding impacts on the region itself, especially the Midwest and the South."

The Iowa Supreme Court reiterated in June that there is no constitutional right to an abortion in the state and ordered a hold on the law to be lifted. The district court judge's orders last week set July 29 as the first day of enforcement.

Across the country, the state of abortion access has been changing ever since the Supreme Court's decision in Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization. Trigger laws immediately went into effect, new restrictions were passed, court battles put those on hold and in some places, there was expanded access.

In states with restrictions, the main abortion options are getting pills by mail or underground networks and traveling, vastly driving up demand in states with more access.

Whole Woman's Health of Minnesota

has served women from South Dakota, Nebraska, Wisconsin, Indiana, Texas, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Florida and Arkansas over the past year. Amy Haggstrom Miller, founder and CEO of the clinic, said she expects to see an increase in patient demand after Iowa's restrictions take effect.

Ms. Flanagan said Minnesota would remain committed to serving people traveling from other states seeking abortion services.

"If you're afraid, come to Minnesota," Ms. Flanagan said. "We've got you."

MUSIC

Experts piece together massive pipe organ used in silent movie era

By COREY WILLIAMS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

DETROIT | A massive pipe organ that underscored the drama and comedy of silent movies with live music in Detroit's ornate Hollywood Theatre nearly a century ago was dismantled into thousands of pieces and stashed away.

The Barton Opus, built in 1927, spent four decades stored in a garage, attic and basement in suburban Detroit.

But the towering musical curiosity is being lovingly restored in Indianapolis and will eventually be trucked, piece by piece, to the Rochester Institute of Technology in western New York, to be reassembled and rehoused in a theater specifically designed to accommodate it.

In its heyday, the Barton Opus was able to recreate the sounds of many instruments, including strings, flutes and tubas, said Carlton Smith, who has been restoring the organ since 2020.

It also contained real percussion



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"One guy could do it all," Carlton Smith (left) said of The Barton Opus pipe organ. The instrument has been undergoing restoration at Carlton Smith Pipe Organ Restorations in Indianapolis. Mr. Smith has been working on it since 2020.

instruments such as a piano, xylophone, glockenspiel, cymbals and drums and

could produce sound effects including steamboat and bird whistles, Mr. Smith

said. "One guy could do it all," Mr. Smith said. "In the big cities, they were literally filling the theaters' thousands of seats multiple times during the day. They were showing live shows along with the films. It was a big production."

The Barton Opus enjoyed good acoustics at the Hollywood Theatre, according to the Detroit Theatre Organ Society. The theaters in Detroit at that time, the golden age of the city's automotive industry, were as glamorous as any in New York, Chicago, Los Angeles and San Francisco, according to John Lauter, an organist and organ technician.

In the decades that followed, televisions began to appear in living rooms across the nation and silent movie houses fell out of favor. The Hollywood Theatre closed in the 1950s, its fixtures were sold and its famed Barton Opus was on the verge of being lost to history.

But in the early 1960s, Mr. Lauter's friend Henry Przybylski bought it at auction for about \$3,500. Przybylski

scrambled to remove the massive instrument, parts of which stood two stories tall, before the theater was demolished.

Przybylski died in 2000, but that did not spell the end of the Barton Opus' odyssey.

Steven Ball, a professional organist who taught at the University of Michigan's Organ Department, asked Przybylski's widow in 2003 if the pipe organ was for sale.

In 2019, Rochester Institute of Technology President David C. Munson contacted Mr. Ball, whom he had known since Mr. Munson served as the dean of engineering at the University of Michigan years earlier.

"I contacted Steven and asked where we could acquire the best theater organ," Mr. Munson said. "Steven said, 'Well that would be mine.'"

The exact cost of the work hasn't yet been determined, Mr. Munson said. "It's an investment we're making, but I think the results are going to be remarkable."

FAST FOOD

McDonald's same-store sales fall for first time since COVID

They're not lovin' it.

McDonald's global same-stores fell for the first time in nearly four years in the second quarter as inflation-weary consumers skipped meals out or chose cheaper options.

The company said Monday it's working on meal deals and new menu items, but it expects same-store sales to be down for a few quarters.

Sales at locations open at least a year fell 1% in the April-June period, the first decline since the final quarter of 2020 when the pandemic shuttered stores and millions stayed home.

In the U.S., same-store sales fell nearly 1%. McDonald's saw fewer customers but said those who came spent more because of price increases.

— Associated Press

NEW YORK

Two dead, five others wounded in shooting at public park

ROCHESTER | Two women were killed and five other people were

wounded when gunfire erupted Sunday evening at a crowded public park in Rochester.

Hundreds of people were at an all-day gathering in Rochester's Maplewood Park when the shooting started around 6:20 p.m., authorities said.

Police Chief David Smith said multiple weapons were fired but no suspects were in custody.

Tyasia Manning, 25, a city employee, was killed at the scene and Phylcia Council, 34, died later.

The five other people hit by bullets suffered graze wounds and other injuries that weren't life-threatening, authorities said Monday.

— Associated Press

NEW YORK

LaPierre banned for 10 years, but NRA won't have overseer

NEW YORK | A New York judge on Monday banned Wayne LaPierre, the former head of the National Rifle Association, from holding a paid position with the organization for a decade, but declined to have an independent monitor to oversee the gun rights group.

The split decision from Judge Joel

BRIEFLY
THE NATION

Cohen came on the final day of arguments in the second stage of a civil trial brought by New York Attorney General Letitia James.

The first phase of the trial, decided in February by a Manhattan jury, found Mr. LaPierre and another deputy liable for mispending millions of dollars on personal expenses.

Judge Cohen also said he had concerns about "speech-chilling government intrusion" on the group, but those First Amendment concerns did not apply to Mr. LaPierre's involvement with the organization.

— Associated Press

MISSOURI

Church leaders accused of pandemic-aid fraud scheme

Leaders of a Missouri church have been charged in a \$1.2 million pandemic fraud scam in which

prosecutors say they stole the identities of congregants and then applied for government loans in their name.

Authorities say that when they began to investigate, Kenneth C. Sparks III, who is accused of being the ringleader, bullied church members into turning over information by telling them he was an "apostle of God" and his "actions and decrees could not be questioned."

Sparks told them the money would help the church, Faith Walk Ministry in Paris, Missouri. Instead, the indictment says, he personally siphoned hundreds of thousands of dollars from the scheme and spent it on clothing and cars.

Making matters worse, prosecutors say Sparks submitted a pandemic loan application in his own name, even though he was a convicted felon and facing a new indictment at the time. He had been convicted of sexually abusing a 14-year-old parishioner at a previous church — again using his religious authority to keep her compliant — and then was charged with failing to register as a sex offender when he moved to Missouri.

— Stephen Dinan

CALIFORNIA

Firefighters make progress thanks to better weather

FOREST RANCH | Firefighters were aided by improving weather over the weekend in the battle against the wildfires covering massive areas and leaving a trail of damage in the western United States, but further evacuations and resources have been necessary as thousands of personnel tackle the flames.

The fire, the largest wildfire in California this year, was one of more than 100 blazes burning Sunday in the U.S., according to the National Interagency Fire Center.

Some were sparked by the weather, with lightning strikes hitting bone-dry land.

The fire had scorched more than 562 square miles of Northern California, an area greater than the city of Los Angeles, darkening the sky with smoke and engaging thousands of firefighters.

Winds and temperatures were expected to increase slightly amid a drop in humidity, officials said Monday.

— Associated Press

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World

INTELLIGENCE

Intel officials warn foes eye election infrastructure

By RYAN LOVELACE
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

The U.S. intelligence community said it has observed foreign adversaries scanning election infrastructure ahead of the contentious November election, raising concerns that hostile powers are probing America's defenses for any vulnerability.

The new alarm from the Office of the Director of National Intelligence on Monday about heightened risk to America's voting apparatus comes with just under 100 days remaining until Election Day.

Government officials are on edge about foreign forces looking to exploit the political process to their advantage and top intelligence officials gave reporters a glimpse at their efforts to guard against foreign threats.

"We haven't seen any efforts by foreign actors to conduct what we consider election interference, which is to prevent the United States from conducting [an] election," an intelligence official told reporters. "There is, however, efforts to scan networks related to election infrastructure."

Officials declined to provide details about the foreign foes scanning America's election infrastructure, including who was responsible.

Such scanning is not new. The FBI spotted an unknown actor in June 2016

Americans express concerns over political agendas of Big Tech firms

scanning the website of a state board of election, according to a House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence report in 2018 on Russian active measures. The FBI recommended in 2016 that every state search activity logs for similar activity.

In 2024, adversaries such as China and Russia are turning to private-sector marketing and public relations firms to do their dirty work, according to intelligence officials. The firms can typically move more nimbly and with fewer bureaucratic hurdles than their government counterparts.

"Moscow is leveraging Russia-based influence-for-hire firms to shape public opinion in the United States, including with election-related operations," the Office of the Director of National Intelligence said in a statement. "These firms have created influence platforms, directly and discreetly engaged Americans, and used improved tools to tailor content for U.S. audiences, while hiding Russia's hand."

Intelligence officials said China's government, meanwhile, collaborated with a "China-based technology company" to advance the communist regime's covert influence operations, seeking more

efficient ways to create content targeted to local audiences.

Iran appears to have ramped up its efforts to influence the presidential election, which intelligence officials said involved "vast webs of online personas and propaganda mills" to spread disinformation and exacerbate tension over the Israel-Gaza conflict.

"Foreign actors continue to rely on witting and unwitting Americans to seed, promote and add credibility to narratives that serve the foreign actors' interests," the ODNI said in a statement.

Intelligence officials declined to talk about the attempted assassination of former President Donald Trump on July 13, citing the ongoing law enforcement investigation.

While the intelligence community placed special emphasis on foreign firms' political manipulation, Americans are also worried about Big Tech firms' political agendas.

Pro-Trump users erupted with outrage this week over concerns that social media giants Google and Meta were censoring content involving Mr. Trump.

Users who began typing a Google query about the assassination attempt on

Mr. Trump reported getting suggested full searches that did not include the former president. Some people typing in "President Donald" reported seeing suggestions to query for "President Donald Duck" instead of Mr. Trump.

"Wow, Google has a search ban on President Donald Trump!" Elon Musk wrote on the X social media platform he owns. "Election interference?"

Google spokesperson Lara Levin told The Washington Times no manual action was taken on the search predictions regarding the attempted assassination and that autocomplete results for Mr. Trump were not working correctly.

Ms. Levin said Google's systems protect against autocomplete predictions associated with political violence, which worked before the attempted assassination and the company is seeking to update its systems now.

Meta, meanwhile, is facing similar accusations of censorship revealing a bias against Mr. Trump on its platforms. Users who posted a photo of a defiant Mr. Trump raising his fist after surviving the assassination attempt reported seeing the image restricted on Meta's platforms and a tag added to say fact-checkers found a similar photo was altered.

Meta spokeswoman Dani Lever said the alleged censorship was an error meant to apply to a different image.

SECURITY

U.S. upgrades regional security ties across Asia

Austin, Blinken boost alliances in Tokyo

By ANDREW SALMON
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA | With authoritarian states asserting their power and the prospect of an "American First" administration returning to power in Washington, senior U.S. officials have been busily enhancing security ties in the region in recent days.

Both Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin attended multiple meets in Tokyo on Sunday and Monday, and met with Japanese Premier Fumio Kishida. Their packed schedules suggest the Biden administration is feeling an urgent need to get deals done while there's still time.

In the biggest move, Mr. Blinken, Mr. Austin, Japan's Minister for Foreign Affairs Yoko Kamikawa and Japan's Minister of Defense Minoru Kihara agreed Sunday to significantly U.S. military command structures in Japan, which hosts the largest single group of GIs stationed overseas.

"The United States will upgrade the U.S. Forces Japan to a joint force headquarters, with expanded missions and operational responsibilities," Mr. Austin said in a statement.

That effectively shifts the command's mission administrative management to having the ability to fight a war. The new command, which will report to Hawaii-based Indo-Pacific Command, will serve as a counterpart to Japan's recently established Self-Defense Forces Joint Operations Command. Mr. Austin said, who called the move the "most significant change to U.S. Forces Japan since its creation" some 70 years ago.

It will streamline currently tangled

lines of command and coordination.

"Essentially, the component U.S. commands in Japan — Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines — answered to their service HQs in Hawaii, so U.S. Forces Japan would have fought under four separate commands," said Lance Gatling, a retired U.S. officer who served in Japan.

"In levels of integration, 'joint' just means two or more services — army and navy; air and space; whatever," said Mr. Gatling, now principal of Tokyo's Nexial Research. "Combined means one command, one commander, with mutually agreed authority to direct combat operations."

The new Japan-based command, based on Mr. Austin's comments on "expanded missions," might enjoy wider regional leeway, given shared Tokyo-Washington concerns over the security of the Philippines and Taiwan in the face of threats from China.

In a statement following the joint meetings, the Japanese and U.S. delegations concurred that China wants to reshape the international order for its benefit at the expense of others. They accused Beijing of employing political, economic and military coercion of other countries to achieve its objectives.

Sunday's meeting also discussed upgrading bilateral presence in Japan's flashpoint southwest islands. Japan is currently fortifying the Ryukyus, which dominates critical seaborne attack corridors north of Taiwan. It is also confronting Chinese maritime assets in the Senkakus, which are claimed by China, which calls them the Diaoyu.

A separate agreement signed in Tokyo this week, the "Trilateral Security Cooperation Framework," entrenches



Secretary of State Antony Blinken (center) looks as Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida shakes hands with Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin. They met about strengthening regional security ties in Tokyo on Monday.

emergent but fragile security cooperation between Japan, South Korea and the U.S. Inked by the defense ministers of the three countries, it formalizes "high-level policy consultations, information sharing and trilateral drills."

The specter of a second Trump administration is not the only political wild card. Some analysts worry that when South Korean President Yoon Suk-yeol, whose pro-Japan posture enabled security trilateralism, leaves office in 2027, Seoul politics may revert to its customary anti-Tokyo stance.

The three governments are hedging against that possibility. They have committed to an annual trilateral exercise, Freedom Edge — initiated last month — and to establishing a joint secretariat.

A third meeting, held Monday in Tokyo, brought together members of the Quad Security Dialog — Australia, India, Japan and the U.S. The top diplomats from the four countries agreed to reinforce maritime safety, create cybersecurity initiatives and also support regional countries in upgrading their defenses on the region's tense seas.

With the Indo-Pacific region lacking a NATO-style multinational defense

body, the Biden administration — aided by pro-U.S., pro-alliance governments in Manila, Seoul and Tokyo — has worked to strengthen regional security relationships.

While current Vice President Kamala Harris looks to continue the current administration's policies if she wins in November, there are concerns that Mr. Trump is less protective of allies and less focused on historic alliances. In his first term, he demanded increased payments for the upkeep of GIs in Japan and Korea, leading some to accuse him of lacking the strategic vision to understand the import of boots on the ground in those countries.

This month, in an interview with Bloomberg, Mr. Trump again linked defense to economics.

"I don't think we're any different from an insurance policy," Mr. Trump said of Washington's security stance toward Taipei. "Why are we doing this?"

"I think Taiwan should pay us for defense," he added. He also claimed Taiwan had stolen U.S. semiconductor technologies.

• Mike Glenn contributed to this report from Washington.

BRIEFLY THE WORLD

VENEZUELA

Election could create seismic shift in politics

CARACAS | Venezuelans were voting Sunday in a presidential election whose outcome will either lead to a seismic shift in politics or extend by six more years the policies that caused the world's worst peacetime economic collapse.

Whether it is President Nicolas Maduro who is chosen, or his main opponent, retired diplomat Edmundo Gonzalez, the election will have ripple effects throughout the Americas.

Government opponents and supporters alike have signaled their interest in joining the exodus of 7.7 million Venezuelans who have left their homes for opportunities abroad should Mr. Maduro win another term.

Polls opened at 6 a.m., but voters started lining up at some voting centers across the country much earlier, sharing water, coffee and snacks for hours.

The number of eligible voters for this presidential election is estimated to be around 17 million. Polls were to close at 6 p.m. local time, but it was unclear when electoral authorities will release the first results.

Authorities set Sunday's election to coincide with what would have been the 70th birthday of former President Hugo Chavez, the revered leftist firebrand who died of cancer in 2013, leaving his Bolivarian revolution in the hands of Mr. Maduro.

But Mr. Maduro and his United Socialist Party of Venezuela are more unpopular than ever among many voters who blame his policies for crushing wages, spurring hunger, crippling the oil industry and separating families due to migration.

Mr. Maduro, 61, is facing off against an opposition that has managed to line up behind a single candidate after years of intraparty divisions and election boycotts that torpedoed their ambitions to topple the ruling party.

Mr. Gonzalez is representing a coalition of opposition parties after being selected in April as a last-minute stand-in for opposition powerhouse Maria Corina Machado, who was blocked by the Maduro-controlled Supreme Tribunal of Justice from running for any office for 15 years.

— Associated Press

UKRAINE

Kyiv says it struck oil depot in Russia; 5 dead, 15 wounded

KYIV | Ukraine said Sunday it struck an oil depot in southern Russia that supplies the Kremlin's troops as Russian strikes in Ukraine's eastern Donetsk region, where Moscow claimed further gains, left five civilians dead and 15 others wounded.

Ukraine's General Staff said in a statement that Kyiv's security services were responsible for a drone strike in Russia's southern Kursk region that morning on an oil depot used to meet the needs of the Russian military, and contains 11 tanks with a total volume of 7,000 cubic meters, adding the attack prompted "powerful explosions and a fire ... probably involving containers with oil products."

"The defense forces continue to take all measures to undermine the military and economic potential of the Russian occupiers and force the Russian Federation to stop its armed aggression against Ukraine," the statement said.

Earlier on Sunday, Russia's Defense Ministry said seven Ukrainian drones were shot down overnight over Russian territory, while a regional official said a drone strike set fire to the oil depot in the Kursk province.

Firefighters were battling the blaze on Sunday morning after three fuel tanks went up in flames, according to acting regional Gov. Alexei Smirnov. Mr. Smirnov said no one was hurt.

The Kursk region lies on the border with Ukraine's Sumy province, where Ukraine has in recent months repeatedly targeted various sites, including oil depots and other military infrastructure, inside Russian territory, with drones and other weapons.

Ukrainian officials have been pressuring Western allies to be able to use their modern, more powerful and more sophisticated weapons to strike more valuable targets inside Russian territory.

— Associated Press

MIDDLE EAST

Escalation feared after Lebanese rocket killed 12, Israel says

By MELANIE LIDMAN AND SAMY MAGDY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

TEL AVIV, ISRAEL | The Middle East braced for a potential flare-up in violence on Sunday after Israeli authorities said a rocket from Lebanon struck a soccer field in the Israel-controlled Golan Heights, killing 12 children and teens in what the military called the deadliest attack on civilians since Oct. 7.

It raised fears of a broader regional war between Israel and Hezbollah, which in a rare move denied it was responsible.

The White House National Security Council said it had been speaking with Israeli and Lebanese counterparts since the attack and was working on a diplomatic solution to "end all attacks once and for all" in the border area between

Israel and Lebanon.

The Israeli military said it struck several targets in Lebanon overnight into Sunday, though their intensity was similar to months of cross-border fighting between Israel and Iran-backed Hezbollah. Hezbollah said it also carried out strikes. There were no immediate reports of casualties.

Saturday's attack came as Israel and Hamas are negotiating a cease-fire proposal to end the nearly 10-month war in the Gaza Strip.

Here is a look at the broader repercussions:

On Saturday, a rocket slammed into a soccer field where dozens of children and teens were playing in the Druze town of Majdal Shams, about 7 miles south of Lebanon and next to the Syrian

border. Twelve were killed and 20 others wounded, according to the Israeli military. One 11-year-old child was missing, residents told Israeli media.

"I feel darkness inside and out. Nothing like this happened here," resident Anan Abu Saleh said. "There's no way to explain this. I saw children, I don't want to say what I saw, but it's horrible, really horrible. We need more security."

On Sunday, the coffins passed through a crowd of thousands.

The Druze are a religious sect that began as an offshoot of Shiite Islam and has communities in Israel, Syria and Lebanon. There are about 25,000 Druze in the Israeli-controlled Golan Heights, according to Yusril Hazran of the Hebrew University.

The Druze are considered among

Israel's most loyal citizens, although those in the Golan Heights have a more fraught relationship with authorities. Israel captured the Golan, a strategic plateau, from Syria in the 1967 Mideast war and annexed it in 1981. Much of the international community considers the area to be occupied territory.

While Druze leaders in the Golan profess allegiance to Syria, relations with Israel are normally good.

"Big anger, big, big. I have no feelings that I can explain to you," said Hassan Shakir, a Majdal Shams resident.

Attacks along the Israel-Lebanon border have simmered below the threshold of all-out war since the start of the conflict in Gaza. But the toll and young victims in Saturday's attack could push Israel to respond more severely.

CULTURE

Taking back their history

By Philip Marcelo
Associated Press

NEW YORK | Tucked within the expansive American Indian halls of the American Museum of Natural History is a diminutive wooden doll that holds a sacred place among the tribes whose territories once included Manhattan

For more than six months now, the ceremonial Ohtas, or Doll Being, has been hidden from view after the museum and others nationally took dramatic steps to board up or paper over exhibits in response to new federal rules requiring institutions to return sacred or culturally significant items to tribes — or at least to obtain consent to display or study them.

The doll, also called Nahn-eetis, is just one of some 1,800 items museum officials say they're reviewing as they work to comply with the requirements while also eyeing a broader overhaul of the more than half-century-old exhibits.

But some tribal leaders remain skeptical, saying museums have not acted swiftly enough. The new rules, after all, were prompted by years of complaints from tribes that hundreds of thousands of items that should have been returned under the federal Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 still remain in museum custody.

"If things move slowly, then address that," said Joe Baker, a Manhattan resident and member of the Delaware Tribe of Indians, descendants of the Lenape peoples European traders encountered more than 400 years ago. "The collections, they're part of our story, part of our family. We need them home. We need them close."

Sean Decatur, the New York museum's president, promised tribes will hear from officials soon. He said staff these past few months have been reexamining the



"If things move slowly, then address that," Joe Baker, a member of the Delaware Tribe of Indians, said. "The collections, they're part of our story, part of our family. We need them home. We need them close."

Tribes waiting for items six months after museums closed exhibits

displayed objects in order to begin contacting tribal communities.

The museum also plans to open a small exhibit in the fall incorporating American Indian voices and explaining the history of the closed halls, why changes are being made and what the future holds, he said.

Museum officials envision a total overhaul of the closed Eastern Woodlands and Great Plains halls — akin to the five-year, \$19 million renovation of its Northwest Coast Hall, completed in 2022 in close collaboration with tribes, Mr. Decatur added.

"The ultimate aim is to make sure we're getting the stories right," he said.

Lance Gumbs, vice chairman of the Shinnecock Indian Nation, a federally recognized tribe in New York's Hamptons, said he worries about the loss of representation of local tribes in public institutions, with exhibit closures likely stretching into years.

The American Museum of Natural History, he noted, is one of New York's major tourism

draws and also a mainstay for generations of area students learning about the region's tribes.

He suggests museums use replicas made by Native peoples so that sensitive cultural items aren't physically on display.

"I don't think tribes want to have our history written out of museums," Mr. Gumbs said. "There's got to be a better way than using artifacts that literally were stolen out of gravesites."

Gordon Yellowman, who heads the department of language and culture for the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, said museums should look to create more digital and virtual exhibits.

He said the tribes, in Oklahoma, will be seeking from the New York museum a sketchbook by the Cheyenne warrior Little Finger Nail that contains his drawings and illustrations from battle.

The book, which is in storage and not on display, was plucked from his body after he and other tribe members were killed by U.S. soldiers in Nebraska in 1879.

"These drawings weren't just made because they were beautiful," Mr. Yellowman said. "They were made to show the actual history of the Cheyenne and Arapaho people."

Institutions elsewhere are taking other approaches.

In Chicago, the Field Museum has established a Center for Repatriation after covering up several cases in its halls dedicated to ancient America and the peoples of the coastal Northwest and Arctic.

The museum has also since returned four items back to tribes, with another three pending, through efforts that were underway before the new regulations, according to spokesperson Bridgette Russell.

At the Cleveland Museum in Ohio, a case displaying artifacts from the Tlingit people in Alaska has been reopened after their leadership gave consent, according to Todd Mesek, the museum's spokesperson. But two other displays remain covered up, with one containing funerary objects from the ancient Southwest to be redone with a different topic and materials.

And at Harvard, the Peabody Museum's North American Indian hall reopened in February after about 15% of its roughly 350 items were removed from displays, university spokesperson Nicole Rura said.

Chuck Hoskin, chief of the Cherokee Nation, said he believes many institutions now understand they can no longer treat Indigenous items as "museum curiosities" from "peoples that no longer exist."

The leader of the tribe in Oklahoma said he visited the Peabody this year after the university reached out about returning hair clippings collected in the early 1930s from hundreds of Indigenous children, including Cherokees, forced to assimilate in the notorious Indian boarding schools.

Widow thinks invitation to livestream wedding is rude

DEAR ABBY:
The daughter of a friend is getting married and sent an email announcement with a link to watch a livestream of the ceremony. I have never been invited to NOT attend an event before, and frankly, my feelings are hurt. (My husband was an incredible artist. Should I send a livestream of others enjoying his work in person?)

ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
DEAR ABBY

taking. She has invited herself along, and I don't know how to politely tell her she can't come

Does etiquette require I send a wedding gift? I would've understood not being invited if they were keeping it a small affair, but inviting a widow to witness a friend's emotional, romantic moment in the solitude of her home seems cruel. Am I out of touch with what is socially acceptable? — NOT GOING IN TEXAS

DEAR NOT GOING: If the wedding is being held some distance from where you live, then the invitation to livestream was probably an attempt to be considerate. Today, many meaningful events are livestreamed, including funerals and memorials. If you would find watching the ceremony depressing and prefer not to "tune in," then don't do it. And, no, you are not REQUIRED to send a gift. (A sweet e-card congratulating the couple would be a nice gesture.)

DEAR ABBY: My brother is married to a very nice woman. It's the second marriage for both, and they both work, although they do not handle money well. They have traveled to family events and ended up running out of money for meals, car rentals, etc. My sister-in-law heard about a girls trip my daughters-in-law, a few close friends and I will be

unless she has the money up front to pay her share. Please advise. — RESPONSIBLE LADY OUT WEST

DEAR LADY: Who has paid for the food and car rentals that this couple didn't have the money to cover? Were those relatives ever reimbursed? Unless you want to foot the bill for your SIL on this trip (to which she has invited herself), you'll have to summon up the courage to tell her you will under no circumstances be doing that. If her feelings are hurt when you state the obvious (that you are not a pushover), so be it.

DEAR ABBY: I am a 79-year-old woman. I have had a friend since high school who is five months younger than I am. A few weeks, sometimes months, before my birthday rolls around, she'll come out with comments about her being several months younger. These comments hover between sarcastic and just plain mean. I think she thinks she's being clever, but after many years of this, it is no longer funny. When she makes a comment this year about my BIG birthday, what could my comeback be, in essence, telling her to knock it off? — SAME AGE IN FLORIDA

DEAR SAME AGE: How about this, spoken with a smile of course: "Oh, Honey, age is only a number. My birthday may come before yours, but you are RIGHT behind me. I'm trying out the number before you get there. At this point, I consider each day a blessing and so should you."

ANDREWS MCMEEL SYNDICATION

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (July 30). You'll receive a vision for a life-changing project and fulfill it, too.

HOLIDAY MATHS
HOROSCOPE

People will seek and apply your wisdom. The improvements that come of this will make your heart soar. More highlights: You'll be drawn to people who are compassionate, gentle and loving because these qualities are so strong inside you. You'll attend coveted conferences and events. You'll enjoy a gift of status. Gemini and Scorpio adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 10, 3, 33, 28 and 15.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You feel like you're playing a small part, but glue also feels that way. It seeps into the cracks and takes up the least amount of room, but in the end, time ensures it's the thing keeping everything else together.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). There's a growing sense of contentment creeping up on you. Happiness comes on for reasons. Sometimes, those reasons are vague. Other times, they're willful. Today, you're happy because you decided to be.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You feel like your main job is a moral support position, and you're not wrong about it. It is by helping the others that you figure out what your best gifts are. You'll grow into your purpose and out of it, too.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Even if you set out to do things on your own, people will be drawn to you, so you'll wind up in a group. To get time to yourself will be a struggle that may not be worth it. The easy way is to surrender and learn from the collective.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Words mean something different than their definition. You're a master of reading the large context, and this is what will make you a master of understanding the smaller one, too. What you come to understand is deeper than words.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept.

22). You'll make key judgments today, and the same decision-making process can be applied whether you're choosing an avocado, a plumber or a friend. You'll pose questions, gather information and go with your gut.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). To recognize a boundary and make sure it's honored is an act of respect that will make relationships better, especially if the boundary is your own. In subtle ways, you'll teach others the rules of interacting with you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). It's your move. Again. Since nothing will happen until you act, it's your turn until the next thing happens. Also, if it's still unclear if the other person is your opponent or your teammate, the answer is "both."

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You can't make them see it your way but try anyway. You'll show them what you see and tell them what you think. The exercise teaches you what's important to you. Those who get it will join you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Emotions are not simple. There's not one kind of mad or sad. Every time a feeling comes up, it has its own flavor. The best feelings are so complex, to try and describe them would only take away from the joy of tasting.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The compliments of others will help you identify strengths, but don't let that be your only indicator for making decisions for your work. People focus on what they need and prefer. Only you know what feels right to you.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You'll be organized in your efforts to make things happen. However, this doesn't mean launching into the planning stage right away. To plan before you recognize the true nature of things would be in vain. Observe well first.

CREATORS.COM

Yoo, Lee, Akopian claim U.S. national titles

The U.S. has a generation-spanning trio of new champs as the U.S. Senior, Junior and Junior Girls Championships were all decided at the Chess Club of St. Louis last week.

GM Vladimir Akopian picked up his first American senior title in style, dusting a field that included such veterans as GMs



Guo-Yoo after 24. Nf3

Joel Benjamin, Alex Shabalov and Gregory Kaidanov and clinching the title with a round to spare with an undefeated 7-2 score.

It was a closer battle in the two junior events, but top-seeded GM Christopher Yoo held off IM Justin Wang to take the junior title, also at 7-2, and thus booked a berth in the next U.S. national championship. In the Junior Girls section, top-seeded IM Alice Lee bounced back from a Round 1 upset at the hands of expert Iris Mou (which we ran in this space last week) to claim the crown by a half-point over a dogged FM Rose Atwell, with Mou another point back in third.

Yoo got off to a confidence-building start in St. Louis with a tough Round 1 victory against GM Arthur Guo, a tricky Caro-Kann Exchange line that quickly produced complex play. With both sides eyeing kingside attacks, Yoo as Black gets in the first real shot on 21. Qd3 Re4 22. Qd1 Qd7!, offering a very modern exchange sacrifice to try to get one of White's best pieces — the bishop on c2 — off the board.

When White declines the offer, the rook suddenly takes a left turn to join the kingside assault. After 23. Nd2 (Bxe4!? dxe4 24. Nd2 f5 is roughly equal, but Black's position looks a lot more fun to play) Nf4 24. Nf3 (see diagram; now 24...Re4 likely heads for a draw by repetition, while 24...Rh5?! 25. Bd2 Rd8 26. Qf1 f5 27. Rael poses no problems for White) Rxb3! 25. Qd3 (gxh3 Qxh3 forces White to find the tricky 26. Bcl! to keep the balance; bad would be 26. Rd2?! Re8 27. Qf1 Qxf3 28. Qg2 Qh5 29. Qh1 Qxh1+ 30. Kxh1

g5 31. Bf5 h5, with a clear edge for Black) Rxf3! (White's threat was 26. Qh7+ Kf8 27. Bf5) 26. gxf3 Qh3 27. f4 (Qh7+?! Kf8 28. Qh8+ Bg8 29. f4 Qg4+ 30. Kf1 f5, and White has trapped his own queen in the corner).

White's last move has slowed down the Black attack, but at the significant cost of blocking in his own dark-squared bishop.

But there's still plenty of play in the position, and Black nearly throws away his edge in the ensuing complications: 27...Qg4+ 28. Kh2 (Kf1 Bh5 29. Rael Qh3+ 30. Kgl Bf3 and wins) Nb4?! (tempting but not the strongest; powerful was simply 28...Re8 29. Rgl Bxf4+ 30. Bxf4 Qxf4+ 31. Kg2 Rxe2 32. Qxe2 Nxd4) 29. Qh7+ Kf8 30. Qh8+ Bg8 31. f3 (Bh7 falls just short after 31...Kf7 32. Reel Nc6 33. Rgl Qh5+ 34. Kg2 Bxh7 35. Qxh7 [Qxa8 Be4+ 36. Kf1 Ne7 37. Qxb7 Bd3+ 38. Kg2 Qe2 39. Rael Be4+ 40. Kg3 Qf3+ 41. Kh2 Qh5+ 42. Kg3 g5 43. Rh1 Bxf4+ 44. Bxf4 gxf4+ 45. Kxf4 Qf3 mate] Ne7, solidifying the defense) Qh5+?! (and now 31... Qxf3! was the way to go; e.g. 32. Rg2 Qxg2+ 33. Kxg2 Nxc2 34. Rgl Nxe3+ 35. Kf3 Nf5 36. Kg4 Nxd4 37. Kh5 Nf5 38. Kg6 Ke7 39. Re1+ Kd7 and wins) 32. Kgl Qxf3, and now Guo might have registered an unlikely save with 33. Bh7! Kf7 34. Bg6! Kxg6 35. Rg2+ Kf5 36. Bd2, with hugely complex play and chances for both sides.

Instead, Black has a killer simplification after 33. Rg2? Qxe3+ 34. Kh1 Qh3+! (the only winning move; not 34...Qe7?? 35. Bh7 Q7 36. Bg6 Qe7 37. Bh7, and if 37... Kf7??, White wins with 38. Rxe7+ 35. Kgl Qxg2+! 36. Kxg2 Nxc2 37. Rgl Bxf4 38.

Kf3 Bg5 — the troublesome g-file is now securely locked down and Black can cash in at his leisure.

With the White queen still imprisoned in her corner, the end comes quickly: 39. Kg4 Ne3+ 40. Kh5 Kf7!, and the threat of 41...g6 mate can only be put off for a few moves; White resigned.

While Akopian, 52, took the honors in the senior event, veteran GM Jesse Kraai deserves a major shout-out for his unexpected second-place finish. The lowest-rated player in the 10-grandmaster field, Kraai looked out of the running after two early losses, but closed with a four-game win streak to finish just a point behind Akopian at 6-3.

He topped off his strong finishing kick with a last-round win over GM Julio Becerra Rivero. Black's Classical King's Indian here may not be much in favor in elite circles these days, but it is a tough nut to crack and produces an absorbing struggle across the entire board.

Becerra Rivero gets into trouble just as Kraai castles queenside, declaring his intention to launch a kingside attack: 18. 0-0-0 Qf6? (the queen-bishop battery looks strong but the queen is misplaced here; better was 18...Nb3+ 19. Nxb3 axb3 20. Qxb3 f4 21. Bd4 Bxd4 22. Rxd4 Nc5 23. Qc2 Re8, with chances for both sides) 19. Kbl Rac8 20. Be2 (also good was 20. gxf5 Bxf5 21. Rg3 Rb8 22. Be2 Rf7 23. Rdl, since Black's defensive shield in front of his king can't hold out for long) Rfe8 21. gxf5 Bxf5 22. Bg4! (very logical — removing the opponent's best defensive piece) Nd3 23. Bxf5 gxf5 24. Nb5, and the White pawn on b2 is poison: 24...Qxb2? 25. Qxb2 Nxb2 26. Rxe7+ Kxe7 27. Kxb2 with a big edge.

On 25. Bd4 Ne5 26. Qxa4 (with the long diagonal safely bottled up, White can afford to go pawn hunting) Nxb5 27. Qxb5, White is up material, controls the long diagonal and the half-open g-file, and has several other weak targets in

Black's game to go after — Kraai is strategically won and wastes no time steering the victory into port.

Thus: 30. Bxe5 dxe5 31. d6 (add a powerful passed pawn to White's growing list of assets) Re6 32. Qd7! Rce8 (guarding the rook but leaving himself wide open to another tactic) 33. Rxe7+! Qxe7 34. Rgl Qxgl+ 35. Nxgl e4 (Black's pawns may look scary, but his still-weak king is the deciding factor here) 36. Nh3 f3 37. Ng5, and Black resigned. There's no good defense to 38. Q7+ Kh8 39. Qh7 mate.

Virginia will be the focus of the U.S. chess world for the next week as the 124th U.S. Open kicked off this week at Norfolk's Sheraton Waterside Hotel and runs through Sunday, Aug. 4. We'll have the results and some of the on-field action in the coming weeks.

Guo-Yoo, U.S. Junior Championship, St. Louis, July 2024
1. e4 c6 2. d4 d5 3. exd5 cxd5 4. Bd3 Nc6 5. c3 e6 6. Nf3 Bd6 7. 0-0 Nge7 8. Re1 0-0 9. h3 h6 10. a4 Qe7 11. Na3 a6 12. Nc2 f6 13. Ne3 Bd7 14. c4 Bb4 15. Re2 Be8 16. cxd5 exd5 17. Nf5 Nxf5 18. Bxf5 Bf7 19. Be2 Rfe8 20. Be3 Bd6 21. Qd3 Re4 22. Qd1 Qd7 23. Nd2 Rh4 24. Nf3 Rxb3 25. Qd3 Rxf3 26. gxf3 Qh3 27. f4 Qg4+ 28. Kh2 Nb4 29. Qh7+ Kf8 30. Qh8+ Bg8 31. f3 Qh5+ 32. Kg1 Qxf3 33. Rg2 Qxe3+ 34. Kh1 Qh3+ 35. Kgl Qxe2+ 36. Kxe2 Nxc2 37. Rgl Bxf4 38. Kf3 Bg5 39. Kg4 Ne3+ 40. Kh5 Kf7 White resigns

Kraai-Becerra Rivero, U.S. Senior Championship, St. Louis, July 2024
1. d4 Nf6 2. Nf3 g6 3. c4 Bg7 4. Nc3 d6 5. e4 0-0 6. h3 e5 7. d5 a5 8. g4 Na6 9. Be3 Nd7 10. h4 Ndc5 11. Rgl Bd7 12. h5 c6 13. Nd2 a4 14. a3 cxd5 15. exd5 f5 16. hxg6 hxg6 17. Qc2 e4 18. 0-0-0 Qf6 19. Kbl Rac8 20. Be2 Rfe8 21. gxf5 Bxf5 22. Bg4 Nd3 23. Bxf5 gxf5 24. Nb5 Nc7 25. Bd4 Ne5 26. Qxa4 Nxb5 27. Qxb5 Re7 28. f4 e4 29. Nxf3 f4 30. Bxe5 dxe5 31. d6 Re6 32. Qd7 Rce8 33. Rxe7+ Qxe7 34. Rgl Qxgl+ 35. Nxgl e4 36. Nh3 f3 37. Ng5 Black resigns

• David R. Sands can be reached at 202/636-3178 or at dsands@washingtontimes.com.

Region

DISTRICT

Three left dead in three separate shootings over the weekend

No arrests have been made in killings

By **MATT DELANEY**
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

A man was shot and killed early Monday in Northeast, ending a violent weekend in the District that saw two other people slain in separate incidents and at least three more wounded in a fourth shooting attack.

The spasm of bloodshed came days after a hectic 24-hour period last week where two men

were killed and nine people injured in seven different shootings across the city.

No arrests have been made in any of this weekend's killings.

Metropolitan Police said in a statement last week that violent crime is currently 12% lower than what it was in 2019 — the year before a pandemic-era crime wave swept through the District, peaking in 2023 being the deadliest year since the late

1990s.

Major crimes are down 34% from last year's apex, but violence has predictably risen back up during the summer months.

That trend continued Monday when police said a man was shot dead at about 2:45 a.m. on the 3500 block of Ames Street Northeast.

Authorities said they're withholding more details about the man's killing until they verify his identity and notify his next of kin.

The deadly Northeast

shooting took place about 12 hours after a brief barricade situation unfolded in Southeast.

Police said officers arrived at the 3200 block of 28th Street Southeast just before 2:45 p.m. Sunday after receiving reports of a shooting.

Units at the scene first prepared for a standoff, but officers quickly discovered the body of 44-year-old Bobby Addison of Southeast.

MPD said the victim died from multiple bullet wounds.

Police described the suspect

as a dark-skinned Black male who was last seen wearing a dark burgundy shirt and black shorts.

The third deadly shooting erupted Friday night near the Truxton Circle neighborhood.

Police said officers rushed to the 300 block of N Street Northwest at about 10:30 p.m. while responding to sounds of gunfire.

Authorities said they arrived to find Trent Davis, 37, of Northwest, lying motionless and suffering from gunshot wounds. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

Hours later, shots rang out about a block north of the bustling U Street Corridor.

MPD said officers found two women with gunshot wounds and a man who was injured by flying glass shortly before 3:30 a.m. Saturday on the 2100 block of 8th Street Northwest.

Police said they're looking for a Black man between the ages of 25-30, who was last seen wearing a white shirt with a blue Nike swoosh on it.

All the victims in that incident are expected to survive.

NORTH CAROLINA

Democrats sue to reverse ruling that put Kennedy on state ballot

ASSOCIATED PRESS

RALEIGH, N.C. | The North Carolina Democratic Party has challenged the state election board's recent decision to recognize a new political party that will put Robert F. Kennedy Jr. on the state's presidential ballots.

The complaint filed Thursday seeks to reverse the board's action that made We the People an official party in the presidential battleground state.

Board staff last week said that

supporters of We the People turned in enough valid signatures from registered and qualified voters to exceed the petition threshold in state law.

In the complaint filed in Wake County Superior Court, lawyers representing the Democratic Party alleged that Mr. Kennedy's campaign evaded tougher standards for independent candidates to get on the ballot — six times as many signatures — by masquerading as a political party

in violation of state law.

Petition instructions for We the People stated that the party's purpose was to put Mr. Kennedy on the ballot, the complaint contends. According to the Democratic Party's lawyers, that's not a permissible purpose under state law, and Mr. Kennedy needed to follow the rules for independent candidates.

The board voted 4-1 in favor of recognition. While Democratic board Chair Alan Hirsch

voted yes, he still said that We the People had engaged in "subterfuge" and suggested that anyone challenging the vote in court would "have a very good case."

We the People representatives have defended the signature drive as legitimate and aligned with state law. The party said its candidates would include Mr. Kennedy and running mate Nicole Shanahan, along with candidates for two other local races.

The Democratic Party asked that a judge act by Aug. 16 to issue a preliminary injunction preventing printed ballots for the fall to contain We the People candidates.

Mr. Kennedy, an avowed environmentalist, has long been a champion of liberal causes. But he has also been a leading proponent of vaccine conspiracy theories, which helped him rise to greater prominence as the pandemic continued and earned

him admiration from conservatives such as former Fox News Channel host Tucker Carlson.

Democrats are worried Mr. Kennedy still has enough left-wing star appeal that he could peel off voters from their presidential nominee, who was expected to be President Biden until he dropped his reelection bid earlier this month. Now Vice President Kamala Harris has locked up support for the nomination.

NEW JERSEY

\$575 million to help coastal areas

Federal aid designed to guard against floods, climate disasters

By **WAYNE PARRY**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PERTH AMBOY, N.J. | The federal government is giving more than half a billion dollars to coastal communities to help them use nature-based preventive measures to address climate-related flooding and other disasters.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration on Friday announced it is allocating \$575 million to 19 resiliency projects in several states, with a particular emphasis on American Indian, urban and traditionally underserved communities that experience repeated floods, wildfires and other weather-related disasters.

Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo said in a statement that the effort was intended to "help make sure America's coastal communities are more resilient to the effects of climate change."

The projects include more than \$72 million for "living shorelines" in New Jersey, using native plants, oyster reefs and other natural materials to restore and protect waterfronts. There is also money to replace sidewalks with permeable pavement, to top buildings with plants to help absorb heat and to establish parks in flood-prone areas that can absorb floodwater.

Other work includes climate risk assessments for over 100 Native communities in Alaska,



The federal government will provide \$575 million in funding for 19 climate resiliency projects across the country, many of them designed to use elements to address flooding and related disasters.

expanding statewide tribal adaptation technical assistance, and sharing local knowledge.

It also includes using nature-based solutions to protect California's Monterey Bay, establish native forests to reduce wildfire risk in Hawaii and open spaces on Rhode Island's Aquidneck Island.

NOAA and Commerce Department officials held a news conference Friday in Perth Amboy to describe some of the work planned for that state, which was pummeled by Superstorm Sandy. The gathering was held on a bayfront walkway that was rebuilt using

government recovery funds after the 2012 storm.

"Climate change is real, it is here, and it is now," said Shawn LaTourette, New Jersey's environmental protection commissioner. "We experience routine flooding that pushes families out of their homes on such a frequent basis. That illustrates the need for federal action and investment."

The money is part of NOAA's Climate Resilience Regional Challenge funded by the Inflation Reduction Act.

Environmental groups have long favored natural coastal protection over "hard

engineering" solutions such as sea walls and bulkheads. Those, they argue, can worsen erosion by causing sand and sediment to scour away from the barriers.

Many coastal communities seek to use a mixture of both types of shore protection in areas where nature-based solutions alone won't suffice.

But some innovative projects have emerged from this school of thought, including work by New Jersey's American Littoral Society to protect the eroding shorelines of a river by using coconut husk fibers in mats to stabilize the land where it meets the water.

NORTH CAROLINA

State: Nonprofit run by Robinson's wife owes over \$132,000

Review cites disallowable expenses

By **GARY D. ROBERTSON**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

RALEIGH, N.C. | North Carolina state regulators now declare a nonprofit run by the wife of North Carolina Lt. Gov. Mark Robinson must repay over \$132,000 for what they call disallowed expenses while carrying out a federally funded child care meal program.

The state Department of Health and Human Services revealed a larger amount in a Friday letter to Yolanda Hill following a compliance review of Balanced Nutrition Inc., of which Ms. Hill is listed as owner and chief financial officer.

Mr. Robinson, who is also the Republican nominee for governor this fall, worked in the nonprofit years ago before running for elected office, according to his memoir.

Ms. Hill previously announced she was shutting down the nonprofit's enterprise and withdrawing from the Child and Adult Care Food Program on April 30. But state officials had already announced in March that the fiscal year's review of Balanced Nutrition would begin April 15.

The review's findings, released Wednesday, cited new and repeat problems, including lax paperwork and failure to file valid claims on behalf of child care operators or report expenses accurately. The program told Ms. Hill and other leaders to soon take corrective action on the "serious deficiencies" or regulators would propose they be disqualified from future program participation.

The state health department said on Thursday that the Greensboro nonprofit also owed the state \$24,400 in unverified expenses reimbursed to several child care providers or homes examined by regulators in the review.

But Friday's letter counted another \$107,719 in ineligible claims or expenses that the state said was generated while Balanced Nutrition performed administrative and operating activities as a program sponsor in the first three months of the year.

Forms signed by regulators

attributed over \$80,000 of these disallowed costs to "administrative labor" or "operating labor." The records don't provide details about the labor costs.

This week's compliance review did say that Balanced Nutrition should have disclosed and received approval from the program that Ms. Hill's daughter was working for the nonprofit.

The owed amounts and proposed program disqualification can be appealed. A lawyer representing Balanced Nutrition and Ms. Hill did not immediately respond to an email Friday seeking comment.

The lawyer, Tyler Brooks, has previously questioned the review's timing, alleging Balanced Nutrition was being targeted because Ms. Hill is Mr. Robinson's wife and that "political bias" tainted the compliance review process.

Program leaders, meanwhile, have described in written correspondence difficulties in obtaining documents and meeting with Balanced Nutrition leaders.

The Health Department is run by Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper's administration. He is term-limited from seeking reelection. Democratic Attorney General Josh Stein is running against Mr. Robinson for governor.

Balanced Nutrition helped child care centers and homes qualify to participate in the free and reduced-price meal program, filed claims for centers to get reimbursed for meals for enrollees and ensured the centers remained in compliance with program requirements. The nonprofit received a portion of a center's reimbursement for its services.

Balanced Nutrition, funded by taxpayers, has collected roughly \$7 million in government funding since 2017, while paying out at least \$830,000 in salaries to Ms. Hill, Mr. Robinson and other members of their family, tax filings and state documents show.

Mr. Robinson described in his memoir how the operation brought fiscal stability to his family, giving him the ability to quit a furniture manufacturing job in 2018 and begin a career in politics.

PENNSYLVANIA

Judge denies bid to move ex-officer's trial out of city due to coverage, protests

ASSOCIATED PRESS

PHILADELPHIA | A judge has turned down a request to move the trial of a former Philadelphia police officer who shot and killed a motorist as he sat in his car, saying there's insufficient evidence that the defendant would be unable to get a fair trial in the city.

Attorneys for former officer Mark Dial sought the change of venue last spring, citing not only what they called an

"avalanche" of press coverage about the shooting death of Eddie Irizarry but also street protests and public comments by elected officials.

Common Pleas Court Judge Barbara McDermott, however, ruled last week that despite the public and media attention the coverage had been "largely factual" and there had been "a substantial cooling-off period since the latest reports," The Philadelphia Inquirer reported.

Judge McDermott also said she had staged a mock jury selection in June to determine the level of potential bias, and although half of the 100 would-be jurors had heard of the case, only 16 had read or seen anything about it in the last six months — and only two said they had fixed opinions, the newspaper reported.

Mr. Dial, 28, is scheduled for trial in September on first- and third-degree murder,

manslaughter, official oppression and other charges in the August 2023 death of Irizarry, 27, in Kensington.

Police initially said the driver lunged at the officer outside the car but later said the officer's body-worn camera footage made it clear that hadn't happened. Police officials moved to fire Mr. Dial after the shooting, citing his refusal to cooperate with an internal investigation.

Mr. Dial and his partner have said they followed Irizarry's car after it sped past them at high speed in a bike lane and rounded a corner, driving erratically and finally going the wrong way on a residential street before pulling into a parking space.

Corporate America needs election integrity

Influence of third-party proxy advisory companies has received less attention than it deserves

By Ken Buck

An unprecedented election season is underway — not just the battle for the White House and Congress but also in corporate America. The season for annual meetings, with shareholder voting, is in full swing, and most Americans are unaware of how compromised these elections are.

Shareholders grapple with questions ranging from board members' election to priorities for setting corporate goals. The implications of these elections are consequential for domestic production, employment, retirement savings and other issues foundational to the U.S. economy.

Before these meetings, many shareholders are issued guidance from third-party companies, such as Glass Lewis or Institutional Shareholder Services, with voting recommendations.

Too many Americans do not notice the corrupt influence of these companies on American free enterprise. ISS, a majority foreign-owned company, and Glass Lewis constitute 97% of the shareholder proxy advisory market. They work in concert, making activist recommendations for corporate votes and never disclosing their other clients. Their recommendations often prioritize short-term political objectives at the expense of sound governance and long-term corporate goals.

We take great measures in this nation to safeguard our political elections. Still, our corporate elections are being compromised, with little attention paid to this unprecedented control over information and influence in how many large blocks of institutional votes are cast.

With the duopoly of Glass Lewis and ISS, corporate America's elections have an undue foreign influence, little transparency about the proxy companies' client lists, secret agendas and activist objectives, and a rejection of American founding principles in favor of European political fads.

Even worse, these proxy advisory companies are not required to disclose any potential conflicts of interest. ISS and Glass Lewis engage in de facto pay-to-play consulting; they charge companies for "consulting services" regarding how to appeal to their investors. ISS and Glass Lewis then make their voting recommendations based on the companies' adherence to many of those same recommendations. Both companies assert that their consulting activities are separate from their recommendations. In

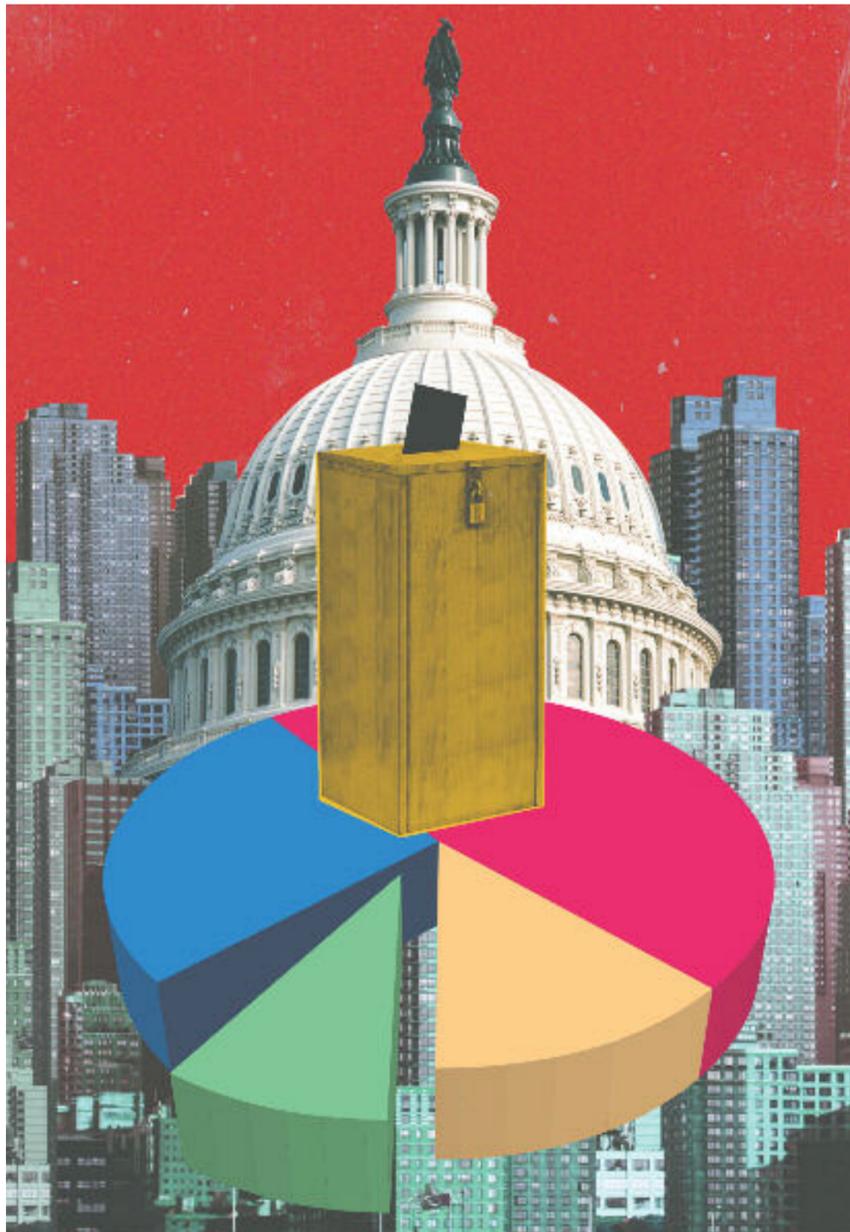


ILLUSTRATION BY LINAS GARSYS

the absence of transparency, however, investors cannot know if these companies require a consulting contract in exchange for favorable

voting recommendations.

These outside companies, with no fiduciary obligation to the shareholders and without the

shared values of American businesses, write up reports and make recommendations based on their own interests or their other clients' interests, but without any accountability or transparency. This lack of responsibility and oversight is more alarming because a number of large institutional investors, such as pension funds and mutual funds, outsource their voting to follow the lead of these proxy advisory firms due to the sheer volume of corporate proxy votes that occur each year.

Rep. Bill Huizenga, Michigan Republican, has argued the same point, saying that these "proxy advisory firms have hijacked the shareholder process" and "really don't answer to shareholders or act in a fiduciary manner."

The activist investors pushing the agendas on which ISS and Glass Lewis offer unsolicited advice are subject to similarly minimal disclosure requirements.

Recent examples of high-profile proxy fights have been in the news, but the influence of ISS and Glass Lewis has received less attention than it deserves.

ISS and Glass Lewis supported opportunistic investor Nelson Peltz against Disney and its successful CEO Bob Iger. Disney ultimately prevailed, but only after spending a reported \$60 million on the activist proxy fight. An ongoing battle is taking place at Masimo, one of the nation's leading medical device companies, where ISS and Glass Lewis are attempting to replace Masimo CEO Joe Kiani with an unproven investor, Quentin Koffey, and his firm, Politan.

These types of proxy fights are expensive and counterproductive to the goals that investors and corporate leaders share. We wouldn't accept this type of election interference in our political elections. And Americans shouldn't accept this type of behavior in our corporate elections, either.

President Calvin Coolidge is credited with giving us corporate America's favorite mission statement: "The business of America is business." In this year's corporate elections, the business of America's shareholders is to ensure that our bedrock free enterprise values prevail. Stockholders should be active in corporate elections but wary of activist agendas being promoted by foreign investment advisers.

While we debate election integrity in our political elections, we shouldn't lose sight of the need to apply the same high standards to our corporate elections.

Ken Buck is a former congressman who served on the House Judiciary and Foreign Affairs committees.

Politics of the weird

Democrats' race games reveal their own racism

Just two weeks since an assassin's bullet came within a fraction of an inch of killing former President Donald Trump during a speech on live national television, Google has already begun vanishing the story.

Type "assassination attempt on trum" and Google's search engine directs you to internet pages about an attempt by Puerto Rican nationalists to assassinate President Harry Truman in 1950. They never made it past the front door.

No wonder Google's corporate motto when it first launched had to be "Don't be evil." It remains a struggle for the company.

Google's disdain for free speech and determination to undermine democracy is rivaled only by the dishonesty of the political media, whose fortunes today rely entirely on Google's whims. Together, the media and Google work feverishly to erase from public consciousness the attempt on Mr. Trump's life, lest it garner sympathy for him among voters before November's election and reveal him to be the bravest man in American politics today.

These are some seriously sick and twisted people.

It is no different from what the media have done since Mr. Trump arrived on the political scene. They spun crazy conspiracy theories about Mr. Trump and his family while lying to the public to prop up and protect any Trump political opponent who came along.

Remember the silver-tongued porn lawyer Michael Avenatti? He was going to be the next president, according to CNN, but instead, he is serving time in federal prison for extortion, fraud and embezzlement.

As for Mr. Trump's near-assassination, the American political media have strained to disappear the story. Even when forced to report the biggest news of the year, The New York Times cropped the photograph of Mr. Trump — blood

gushing from his wound — being rushed offstage so that it would make Mr. Trump appear less brave and heroic.

Google eventually retired the "Don't be evil" slogan. The New York Times has no such excuse.

Amazingly, the best reporting to come out of the assassination attempt came from Gary O'Donoghue, the North American correspondent for the BBC. Within an hour

of the shooting, he aired an interview with a witness who said the gunman had been spotted on the roof well before the shooting but authorities failed to do anything.

In the most fitting irony of this moment in American political media, Mr. O'Donoghue is blind.

Not only was an actual blind man able to see the story that the entire American political press refuses to see, but he would have done a better job than the Secret Service at protecting Mr. Trump from getting shot in the first place.

By the time the Republican National Convention in Milwaukee rolled around a few days after the assassination attempt, the media were in no mood to listen to Republicans or the

half of the American population who vote for Republicans.

The whiny scolds at MSNBC boycotted the convention. But they did not want to miss an opportunity to lie to their viewers about the GOP convention. So they set up a fake background screen showing the floor of the convention and provided hours and hours of lies and fake "analysis" from their fake studio in New York.

Again, I am not making up any of this.

In one of the most deranged rants before the fake convention screen, the lady who normally wears a Trump wig on TV hyperventilated that President Biden (who was still in the race at the

survive the election campaign. Mr. Trump beat him before the first ballot was cast.

Now comes Kamala. Or at least it appears the Democratic pooh-bahs are poised to dismiss the will of Democratic primary voters and install Vice President Kamala Harris as their nominee.

Ms. Harris — a lifelong politician — has attacked Mr. Trump's VP pick as weird and somehow disloyal to the country. Sen. J.D. Vance grew up poor, served his country in the Marines and is new to politics. Naturally, the cackling hyena Mr. Biden picked as VP because she was a "woman of color" thinks Mr. Vance is the "weird" one.

Good luck with that. Also, Trump voters are racist for attacking the "woman of color."

Meanwhile, Ms. Harris — the experienced politician — is hosting openly segregated rallies for "White dudes" who support her. And Democrats in the media openly warn Ms. Harris against picking the popular governor of Pennsylvania for vice president because, well, he has a problem.

That problem — which they are openly talking about — is that Gov. Josh Shapiro is Jewish, and an alarming portion of the Democratic Party today openly hates Jews. If she picks Mr. Shapiro as her running mate, the Democratic media warns, she will lose the support of enough Democrats that she could lose Michigan and even Minnesota — and thus the election.

Weird times indeed. But not weird in the way Democrats claim.

Charles Hurt is the opinion editor at The Washington Times.

Liberals love victims, except when victim is Trump

Corporations spoke out about George Floyd, but not former president

By Michael Seifert

When George Floyd was killed in May 2020, some corporations leaped at the chance to speak out.

Netflix said: "To be silent is to be complicit. Black lives matter. We have a platform, and we have a duty to our Black members, employees, creators and talent to speak up."

Meanwhile, the child labor employer Nike released a video that said: "For once, Don't Do It. Don't pretend there's not a problem in America. Don't turn your back on racism. Don't accept innocent lives being taken from us. Don't make any more excuses. Don't think this doesn't affect you. Don't sit back and be silent. Don't think you can't be part of the change. Let's all be part of the change."

And Uber said in a statement: "We stand with the Black community. We stand with those peacefully protesting injustice, hatred and racism. We stand in support of orgs like [the Equal Justice Initiative] and [Policing Equity] working to make America more just for all."

These companies and others used Floyd's killing to virtue signal. They not only told the public that they were



Vice President Kamala Harris

ASSOCIATED PRESS

COMMENT & ANALYSIS

Wray's magic shrapnel theory

FBI director peddles conspiracies before Congress

The left is trying to memory-hole the attempted assassination of former President Donald Trump. To downplay the significance of what happened on July 13, the FBI director openly wondered whether the former president was shot at all.

"With respect to former President Trump, there's some question about whether or not it's a bullet or shrapnel that, you know, that hit his ear," said Christopher Wray at a House Judiciary Committee hearing last Thursday.

Nobody outside crazed left-wing circles has any doubt Mr. Trump was shot before a crowd of supporters in Butler, Pennsylvania. Unlike with the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, we have more than the grainy Zapruder film to go on. This was the first attempt on a former or current president's life to be recorded simultaneously from multiple angles by hundreds of high-definition cameras.

New York Times photographer Doug Mills even captured the photograph of a lifetime — Mr. Trump speaking at the lectern as a bullet streaked past his head. It's a bullet, not a ricochet, and not a supernatural fragment of glass from a teleprompter.

Perhaps Mr. Wray was too busy opening new prosecutions of people who rioted 3½ years ago at the U.S. Capitol to notice Mr. Trump's teleprompters were intact throughout the event.

There is a video showing the bullet striking Mr. Trump's ear at the moment the former president turned his head to point to a chart displayed on a large television monitor. A straight line can be drawn from the shooter's rooftop position to Mr. Trump's upper right ear.

Clear lines can also be drawn to retired firefighter Corey Comperatore, who was killed, as well as the two others in the crowd who were wounded. As the gunman fired

multiple rounds before the Secret Service responded, there's no need to invent a magic projectile theory.

Rep. Ronny Jackson, the Texas Republican who served as White House physician for President Barack Obama and Mr. Trump, had harsh words for Mr. Wray after reviewing Mr. Trump's injuries.

"There is absolutely no evidence that it was anything other than a bullet," Dr. Jackson said in a statement Friday. "Congress should correct the record as confirmed by both the hospital and myself."

Feeling the heat, the FBI retreated in a statement attributed to the bureau: "What struck former President Trump in the ear was a bullet, whether whole or fragmented into smaller pieces, fired from the deceased subject's rifle."

Bullets don't break apart in flight, so even in walking back his misstatement, Mr. Wray is indulging leftist conspiracy theories to suggest it could be a "fragment." James Comey, Mr. Wray's predecessor as FBI director, used similar tactics in turning the Steele dossier into a political weapon against Mr. Trump.

Hillary Clinton's campaign spread the fallacious document, enabling biased FBI agents to effectively say "there's some question" about whether Mr. Trump was a Russian agent. In a matter of days, investigators realized the dossier's supposed evidence was unsubstantiated nonsense, but the FBI kept mum about its findings.

By continuing its baseless investigation for years, FBI leadership left a cloud of doubt over the Republican candidate who became president.

One hopes if Mr. Trump moves back into the White House next year that he will have learned his lesson about the wisdom of retaining the FBI director. Mr. Wray confirmed last week he is unfit to continue holding the office.



Barack's new sock puppet

The truth about Gaza and Israel

Progressive Democrats can't handle it

By Cal Thomas

Last week, one of the world's great orators came to Washington and delivered an address to Congress that was so powerful and so true that a number of progressive Democrats boycotted his remarks, apparently because they can't handle the truth.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu proved a comment once made by ABC newsman Ted Koppel: "Our society finds truth too strong a medicine to digest undiluted. In its purest form, truth is not a polite tap on the shoulder. It is a howling reproach."

Mr. Netanyahu delivered a howling reproach to the anti-Israel and antisemitic demonstrators outside the Capitol building and on college campuses when he said: "Defeating our brutal enemies requires both courage and clarity. Clarity begins by knowing the difference between good and evil. Yet incredibly many anti-Israel protesters, many choose to stand with evil. They stand with Hamas."

He called such people "useful idiots" to Iran, which he said was behind much of the demonstrations that promote hatred of Israel, Jews and, yes, America, as we saw when demonstrators burned American flags outside Union Station and defaced monuments.

Just how useful these "idiots" are to Iran was noticeable in an earlier statement by Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who said anti-Israel demonstrators on college campuses are "on the right side of history."

Mr. Netanyahu mocked the demonstrators: "These protesters chant 'From the river to the sea.' But many don't have a clue what river and what sea they're talking about. They not only get an F in geography, they get an F in history. They call Israel a colonialist state. Don't they know that the land of Israel is where Abraham, Isaac and Jacob prayed, where Isaiah and Jeremiah preached and where David and Solomon ruled?"

He also responded to Hamas' propaganda that Israel is deliberately targeting civilians in the Gaza Strip, saying that "despite all the lies you've heard, the war in Gaza has one of the lowest ratios of combatants to non-combatant casualties in the history of urban warfare. And you want to know

where it's lowest in Gaza? It's lowest in Rafah."

What about another Hamas lie that humanitarian aid is not reaching civilians (a lie Vice President Kamala Harris perpetuated after she met with Mr. Netanyahu).

"The prosecutor of the International Criminal Court has shamefully accused Israel of deliberately starving the people of Gaza," Mr. Netanyahu said. "This is utter, complete nonsense. It's a complete fabrication. Israel has enabled more than 40,000 aid trucks to enter Gaza. That's half a million tons of food, and that's more than 3,000 calories for every man, woman and child in Gaza. If there are Palestinians in Gaza who aren't getting enough food, it's not because Israel is blocking it, it's because Hamas is stealing it."

After meeting with Ms. Harris, Mr. Netanyahu said her public statement differed from what she told him in private. She asserted that Gaza residents were suffering from food insecurity and some were starving. She highlighted the old formula that only a two-state solution can end the regional conflict. This has been debunked so many times by statements from Israel's enemies, which favor a one-state solution. Amazingly, the line continues to be repeated over several administrations.

After his meeting with Mr. Netanyahu at Mar-a-Lago, former President Donald Trump said he asked the prime minister why so many American Jews vote for Democrats, many of whom vote against Israel's (and America's) interests. "Habit," he quoted Mr. Netanyahu as saying.

What ought to stick with Americans is what Mr. Netanyahu said about Iran's ultimate goal: "Last month, I heard a revealing comment, ostensibly about the war in Gaza, but about something else. It came from the foreign minister of Iran's proxy Hezbollah, and he said this: 'This is not a war with Israel. Israel,' he said, 'is merely a tool.' The main war, the real war, is with America."

If Iran is allowed to produce a nuclear bomb, it is likely to prove the truth of that claim.

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

There's evil, but GOP isn't it

President Biden and I finally agree on something: The U.S. is engaged in a war of good against evil ("The Kamala reset: Democrats reshape the narrative around Harris," web, July 24). The soul of our nation is indeed at stake — but Mr. Biden appears confused about which party is evil. I'm not sure how he defines evil, but let's start with honesty (or the lack thereof, in this case).

Regardless of what we've all seen since Mr. Biden took office, the White House, Democratic leadership and their conspirators in the press have told us he is fine, stronger than ever and anything to the contrary is a lie. But during last month's debate with

former President Donald Trump, the bubble popped and the charade was over. The Democrats realized the American people had seen the truth and Mr. Biden would never beat Mr. Trump, so they launched a coup to remove him from the ticket. This was not for the good of the country, but rather because the far-left puppet masters feared losing power.

Just weeks after many had suggested that Vice President Kamala Harris was a drag on the ticket and should be replaced, the Democrats did a complete 180 and launched their next propaganda campaign.

Yes, Mr. Biden, it is a war of good versus evil, but your party needs to

look in the mirror to see what true evil looks like. Evil is a party that will do anything to stay in power. It favors other nations over our country and people, and it favors criminals over law-abiding citizens. It is a party that has corrupted and weaponized the justice system and suppresses constitutional rights. It's a party where the ends justify the means. As the late and corrupt Sen. Harry Reid responded when called out for having spread the lie that Mitt Romney hadn't paid federal taxes in years: "Romney didn't win, did he?"

SAM JONES
Fairfax Station, Virginia

Harris would finish what Obama started

Former President Barack Obama is a contemptible, two-faced backstabber. He made President Biden his vice president for eight years and then, behind the scenes, conspired to get rid of him so he could support an even bigger liar and incompetent, far-left traitor, Kamala Harris ("Obama endorses Kamala Harris for president: 'She has the vision, the character and the strength,'" web, July 26).

I believe Mr. Obama the head puppet master and his minions gave Mr. Biden an ultimatum: Resign or we invoke the 25th Amendment.

In his farewell speech, Mr. Biden said he wanted unity in the country. As a combat-wounded Marine

veteran who fought communists in the Vietnam War, I can say with certainty that he hasn't got a snowball's chance at getting me or any significant percentage of our military members, past or present, to buy in to his and Ms. Harris' socialist agenda. Not now, not ever.

Mr. Biden praised the laughing hyena and pathological liar Ms. Harris, saying she was tough and ready to lead, two more bald-faced lies. Now the news media say Ms. Harris never really was "border czar," but this conflicts with the many reports that say she was tasked with fixing the border. No matter what anyone wants to call stopping the influx of murderers, terrorists

and drug dealers at the border, Ms. Harris was supposed to do it — and she is derelict in her duty to do so.

Ms. Harris also chose to stick up for rioting protesters who were burning down our cities, telling them to keep protesting. And instead of living up to her sworn duty to uphold the law, she has sided with the "defund the police" movement.

By endorsing Ms. Harris, Mr. Obama is effectively telling everyone that if she is elected, Ms. Harris will burn down the country to finish what Mr. Biden started.

GREGORY J. TOPLIFF
Aiken, South Carolina

No delay this time around

Although Michael McKenna's op-ed "Is it time for Trump to assemble a transition team?" (web, July 27) laments the Trump administration's delays in making political appointments in 2016, this time around the transition team and context will be completely different. Conservatives now actually anticipate a Trump victory, compared to 2016 when a Trump victory seemed improbable, minimizing the pool of applicants for these jobs.

Having helped in previous pre-election planning for key presidential appointments, I know that a significant network of experienced former Trump administration personnel are already assembling lists of qualified and conservative candidates. They know firsthand

what it takes to tame the administrative state and the savvy, grit and perseverance that is required of appointees to get the job done.

The federal government employs nearly 3 million personnel, many of whom are not conservative and are extremely difficult to fire. A new president may appoint roughly 4,000 new personnel, of which about 1,250 require Senate confirmation — a tough row to hoe when the opposing party controls the Senate.

Those 4,000 presidential appointees will swim in a sea teeming with sharks. Huge agencies such as the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, which I dealt with for several decades, are filled with burrowed-in, career

bureaucrat ideologues who will leak confidential information and ruthlessly use every trick in the system to block conservative agendas.

Right now, conservatives should be consulting the government's Plum Book to determine which agencies and specific positions will be most likely to employ their skills. A legion of carefully chosen, experienced appointees — combined with the recent Supreme Court Chevron decision, which dealt a blow to the bloated bureaucracy — bodes well for the transformation of the administrative state into a servant of the people's elected leaders.

JONATHAN IMBODY
Quinton, Virginia

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Trump knows Chinese military is crushing us in space

Biden has dangerously weakened Space Force

By Douglas MacKinnon

Virtually no one in politics focuses on the grave and growing military threat the United States faces in space from China. Little do they realize that if we aren't the preeminent force in space, we could soon lose everything, including very nation.

While many politicians don't see the warning lights flashing from space, former President Donald Trump has taken note of them for years. In his acceptance speech on July 18 at the Republican National Convention in Milwaukee, he gave a shout-out to the Space Force, a command he is rightfully proud of creating.

On Dec. 20, 2019, then-President Trump signed into law legislation creating the U.S. Space Force and said that "space is the world's newest warfighting domain. Amid grave threats to our national security, American superiority in space is absolutely vital. We're leading, but we're not leading by enough, and very shortly, we'll be leading by a lot."

Mr. Trump was correct in his assessment until the moment President Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris took office. Had that not happened, the United States would have been "leading by a lot," thanks entirely to the leadership and push by Mr. Trump to make the U.S. preeminent in space. Mr. Biden and Ms. Harris — who is also the missing-in-action head of the National Space Council — quickly unraveled that vital mission by making NASA perhaps the most "woke" agency in the U.S. government while dangerously weakening our military.

Mr. Trump wanted to create the Space Force in part because he understood what so many liberals foolishly deny. That said, once humans cut through Earth's atmosphere into the vacuum of space, their flaws, greed, prejudice, hate and military ambition come with them. This reality has been proved by history time and again.

China understands that no nation is more dependent upon its satellites, in near and geosynchronous orbit, for



ILLUSTRATION BY LINAS GARSYS

its survival than the United States. For years, the Chinese military has been identifying which of our satellites to target and how best to take them offline or destroy them. China is on the brink of doing so.

These are issues I worked on for three years at the Pentagon while advising and assisting our ballistic missile defense program and as a past adviser to NASA and the space shuttle team, and have continued to address since in the

private sector. They have been known for decades.

In his speech on Sept. 12, 1962, at Rice University on the need for the United States to become the "preeminent space-faring nation," President John F. Kennedy stressed: "We mean to be a part of it — we mean to lead it. For the eyes of the world now look into space, to the moon and to the planets beyond, and we have vowed that we shall not see it governed by a hostile flag of conquest, but by a

banner of freedom and peace."

It is fair to say that Mr. Trump was the only president since Kennedy who truly understood — and understands — the military vulnerabilities the United States faces in space. Mr. Trump does realize that China is literally looking to plant "a hostile flag of conquest" on the surface of the moon as it declares that body its sovereign — and protected — territory.

Why would China do so? Other than the fact that it represents the ultimate "high ground," the Chinese want the moon for energy independence, a goal they hope to achieve via helium-3. Helium-3 is an isotope that litters the surface of the moon and could provide a potentially limitless supply of safe, clean energy. Some experts estimate the moon's surface holds over 2 million metric tons of helium-3, and that just 25 metric tons could fuel the energy needs of the United States for a year.

China's space program is a military program controlled by that nation's leaders. They realize that the United States is falling further and further behind in space. They will act when the time is best for them in Earth orbit and on the surface of the moon. They intend to use the promise, riches and military high ground of space to deter and then defeat the United States.

Mr. Trump understands this and will move quickly to reestablish our preeminence in space. He will do so because, as he said in part from the Rose Garden a few weeks before creating the Space Force: "Our adversaries are weaponizing Earth's orbits. ... So, just as we have recognized land, air, sea, and cyber as vital warfighting domains, we will now treat space as an independent region overseen by a new unified geographic combatant command."

The Biden-Harris administration has irresponsibly ceded the ultimate high ground — with potentially the most promising energy source ever — to China. Mr. Trump knows it could be game over if we don't get it back.

Douglas MacKinnon is a former White House and Pentagon official and author of the book "The 56: Liberty Lessons From Those Who Risked All to Sign the Declaration of Independence."

Abortion, vandalism and politics

Progressive activists target pro-life pregnancy centers

By Scott Wheeler

Slate magazine recently profiled a supporter of abortion access who was found guilty of vandalism against a pro-life crisis pregnancy center in Buffalo, New York. Sadly but not surprisingly, Slate takes the side of the 39-year-old woman.

It isn't the only one. The woman receives high-priced legal representation from the Manhattan office of Davis Wright Tremaine. (The firm's D.C. lawyers share office space on K Street with The Washington Post.)

From the article and the response of the pro-life pregnancy center CompassCare, there are plenty of claims and counterclaims. In Slate, the woman says her pregnancy test was positive, a revelation complicated because "due to a medical condition, she believed she could not conceive but wanted a medical professional's confirmation." She could have turned to an OB-GYN or her own medical professional.

Instead, she found CompassCare, a 35-year-old crisis pregnancy center in Buffalo. The pro-life group's website includes the tagline "Erasing the need for abortion." One of its slogans is "Three lives saved — one appointment."

The woman says her appointment went poorly; Slate says she remains "haunted" by it. Later, she spray-painted the word "Liars" in giant letters with blood-red paint on CompassCare's business sign facing the street. She was arrested and charged with third-degree criminal mischief, a Class E felony that carries a maximum penalty of four years in prison.

Local media reported that the woman had entered a plea agreement and avoided jail time; she also agreed to pay \$2,580 in restitution. Soon after, she filed a medical malpractice lawsuit against CompassCare. Enter Davis Wright Tremaine.

To those following the seemingly limitless attacks against Christians and abortion foes, the CompassCare story features several familiar patterns: first, the sophomoric lashing out in anger of a supporter of abortion access.

Also, by finding CompassCare instead of her own gynecologist or her own doctor, the woman traveled the well-worn path used by activists in Colorado who have trained their sights on bakery owner Jack Phillips, a Christian. His refusal to bake cakes for events that conflict with his beliefs, such as same-sex weddings and gender transitions, has led to harassment, lawsuits and, for him, a near-equal amount of courtroom vindication.

It also follows the pattern of the political left engaging in violence against those with whom it disagrees. Starting in May 2020, the Catholic News Agency began tracking vandalism and other attacks by pro-abortion groups against pro-life organizations or churches. This includes vandalism, graffiti, property damage, threats, theft and even arson.

In roughly 21 months, CNA documented 115 attacks. (CNA's study includes the vandalism by the 39-year-old woman against CompassCare.) As of last November, CNA counts attacks against pro-lifers in at least 32 states and the District of Columbia.

As for CompassCare, it remains committed to defending itself and exposing what it feels is the targeting of pro-abortion activists. "People have a right to know who is funding [the] high-dollar attorneys out of Davis Wright Tremaine a New York City law firm," said the Rev. Jim Harden, CompassCare CEO. "If truth and the rule of law is so loved by pro-abortion legislators and lawyers, how can the provocation of violence against pro-life people go uninvestigated and uncensored?"

Mr. Harden added that "abortionists do nothing but abortion for a fee while Christian pro-life pregnancy centers do everything but abortion for free."

Indeed, the CompassCare website landing page highlights a fundraising campaign. It is encapsulated in three sentences: "Serve Women. Save Babies. Never Stop." Sadly, it appears that, at least for now, attacks against pro-lifers and the unborn will never stop either.

Scott Wheeler is an investigative journalist who has been a war correspondent and foreign correspondent, and worked undercover inside Hamas.

Capitalism saves lives, and socialism always fails

There is no better policy than economic freedom

By Johan Norberg

Like every election cycle, 2024 will come down to economics. Despite the bluster of big personalities and the petty partisanship that dominates today's discourse, pocketbook issues like inflation will reign supreme. They always do.

According to recent Pew polling, strengthening the U.S. economy is indeed voters' top policy priority in 2024. And that has nothing to do with vice presidential picks or high-profile donor meetings; it has everything to do with the pocketbook, the most bipartisan issue there is.

Will Americans take a step toward economic freedom, or will the steady decline into ever-larger government overreach continue? If the 2024 election is the most consequential of our lifetime, as we often hear, the direction of U.S. economic policy is the most consequential.

I hope for a national embrace of the free market. But it seems both major parties are turning away from the system that has made America the most successful economy in history. On the one side, we find the old leftist rejection of free enterprise; on the other, the new national conservative hostility to free trade. Both parties are wedded to deficit-funded spending.

Therefore, we must remind ourselves of some basic truths: Capitalism creates wealth and saves lives. Socialism and protectionism always fail. By a large margin, the free market is the most successful weapon against poverty ever, and it will continue to lift up the poor if we allow it.

Just look at the data: 200 hundred years ago, at the birth of industrial capitalism, there were only about 80 million people in the world who were not living in extreme poverty, meaning \$2 a day or less, adjusted for inflation. Today, more than 7.3 billion

people are not living in extreme poverty.

Why? The free market. Economic growth and poverty reduction started in places where and in periods when major steps were being taken to protect property rights, promote business and investment and expand trade. People, goods and services traveled across borders, and countless millions prospered.

move us emotionally. As Stalin once said in the opposite context: "The death of one man is a tragedy. The death of a million is a statistic."

The same goes for progress. When one man rises out of poverty, we feel it viscerally and empathize. A million people rising out of poverty, however, is just a statistic.

Therefore, it is important to emphasize that such a data point is made up of 1 million real people of flesh and blood, hopes and fears, who can now, for the first time, put food on the table and send their kids to school. The most powerful testament to the free market's positive impact lies in the lives that are changed for the better.

Such stories are perfectly encapsulated in the new documentary "She Rises Up," which chronicles the journeys of three remarkable female entrepreneurs in developing nations who are lifting up their entire communities through business activity. From manufacturing to commerce, the three women have fought the odds to launch and expand small businesses, creating jobs where the government could not and offering prosperity that had never existed before in their neighborhoods.

Critics of capitalism may want to ignore these stories, but those of us who believe in the free market can never forget them. There are too many human stories to ignore, and there is no better time to tell them than now.

Stripping away the political noise, my hope in 2024 is for a greater understanding that economics is not just about numbers but about people. Whenever someone says that they want to control the market and restrict trade, they really seek to control and restrict people — and their creativity and dreams.

Whether you trust in anecdotal or empirical evidence, there is no better policy than economic freedom. That's how we all continue to rise up and up again.

Johan Norberg is an author, lecturer and documentary filmmaker born in Sweden. He is a senior fellow at the Cato Institute in Washington.

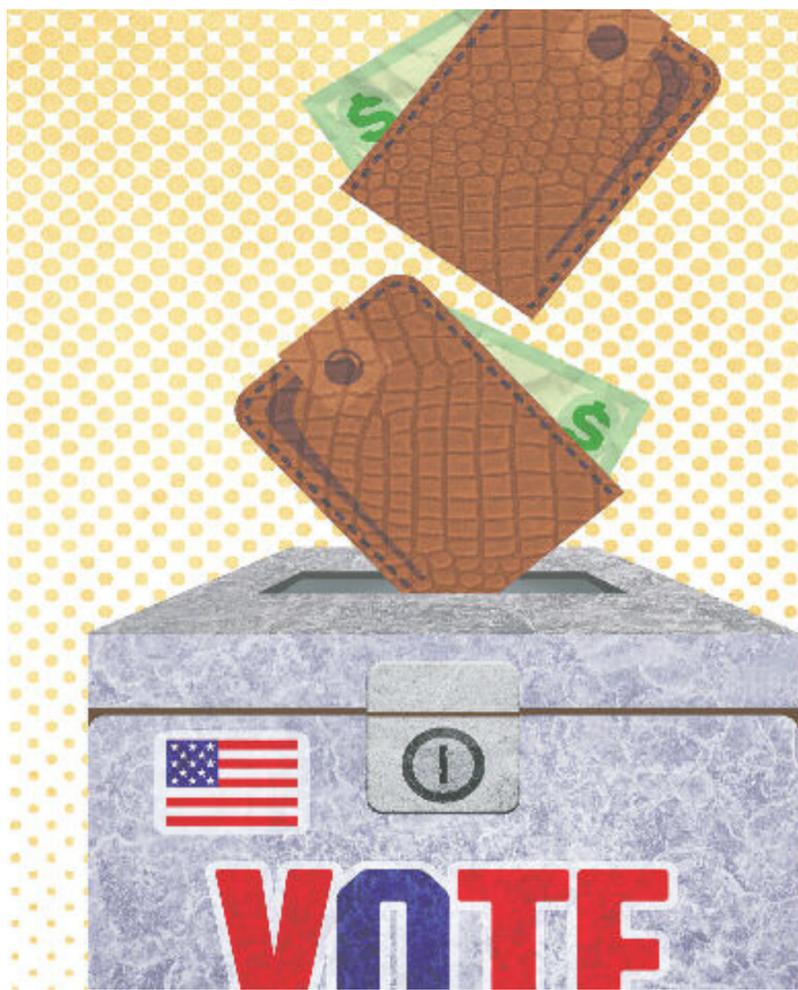


ILLUSTRATION BY GREG GROESCH

Except the number isn't "countless." From 2002 to 2022, nearly 1 billion people moved out of extreme poverty globally. Astonishingly, roughly 135,000 people escaped poverty every day. The primary reason is economic freedom, with even totalitarian regimes such as China embracing some form of economic liberalization.

With such overwhelming evidence, why do so many people neglect the beneficial effects of the free market? One reason is that statistics rarely



ILLUSTRATION BY HUNTER

This will be my last Olympics

Tasteless Last Supper tableau at opening ceremony a transgression against moral decency

By Scott R. Hammond

On Jan. 7, 2015, two French Algerian brothers entered the Paris office of the satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo. Their rifles already leveled, the duo executed 12 employees and critically injured 11. The Kouachi brothers exacted revenge for a published cartoon of the Islamic Prophet Muhammad. Although not forbidden by the Quran, disparaging images of the prophet are considered profane and can elicit a violent response. Last Friday, at the Olympic opening ceremony in Paris, Jesus was mocked in a drag-queen tableau of the Last Supper. The role of Jesus, with a high, sparkly crown and immodest décolleté, was played by a presumed beauty pageant winner, patently guilty of at least two deadly sins. Rep. Lauren Boebert, Colorado Republican, wrote on X: “Mocking God at the Olympics is just disgusting. Christians are constantly subject to

this abuse. It’s a complete disgrace to see on such a huge stage.” As the camera panned the long table of “vogueing” luridly eye-shadowed disciples, particularly disturbing was not the bearded humanoid in a midnight blue bustier; it was the little brown-haired girl in dandelion yellow, sandwiched near the middle. The Last Supper of Jesus took place approximately 1,465 years before Leonardo da Vinci painted his masterpiece. It took place during the Jewish celebration of Passover. On the eve of Jesus’ crucifixion, Jesus broke a loaf of bread and said to his disciples, “This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me.” He poured a cup of wine and said, “This is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.” These acts have been ritualized in the Catholic ceremony of the Eucharist, when congregants consume the symbolic body and blood of Christ and solemnly recall his excruciating torture and death — the merciless scourging, crown of thorns, spikes driven through his hands and feet, and Longinus’ spear drawing blood and water

from his side. Through this unimaginable suffering, Jesus took upon himself the sins of humanity so that each might have salvation and eternal life with God. At this year’s Olympic opening ceremony, the venerated Christian image of the Last Supper was hijacked for a cult movement’s deviant political purposes. With a little girl in its clutches, the cult gloatingly declared, “We have your children.” Indeed, gender-bending indoctrination is embedded in public school curricula across the United States, beginning in kindergarten. But what is billed as benign gender affirmation is condemned as “irreversibly harmful” by the American College of Pediatricians. The tasteless Olympic exhibition was not only an affront to 2.4 billion Christians but also was a transgression against moral decency. As evidenced in gay pride parades in cities such as San Francisco and Seattle, the LGBTQ movement has turned increasingly lewd. Public nudity and pornographic acts have become common, and moral objections are swiftly stifled by “woke” countercharges of some cancel-worthy

iteration of “phobic.” It is curious that Christianity, a religion of peace, charity and forgiveness, was singled out for this burlesque and not, say, Islam. France is home to approximately 6 million Muslims, make up more than one-third of Europe’s entire Muslim population. Many of them live in unassimilated enclaves that prioritize their religious doctrines and Shariah (Islamic law) over the statutes of polite French society. The history of Islamic extremism is still a poignant memory. It does not take much imagination to visualize the Shariah-inspired response — in a country brimming with Kouachi-aged men — to an act blasphemous to Islam performed in front of the world. 2024’s Olympic opening ceremony was exploitative and disrespectful, but in keeping with Christian grace, it will be forgiven. According to Romans 12:18-19: “Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone. Dear friends, never take revenge. Leave that to the righteous anger of God.” Scott R. Hammond is a Boston resident.

Harris is Democrats’ poster child for failing up

Let’s focus on her record, not her race

By Craig J. DeLuz

Amid the perceived ascendancy of Vice President Kamala Harris as the top contender to succeed President Biden as the Democratic Party’s representative in the November election, I received a communique from a confidant imploring me to refrain from criticizing her. I was made to understand that as a Black man, to blatantly reject her candidacy in favor of the Republican candidate, former President Donald Trump, would result in my complete detachment from the Black community. While I can attest to my friend’s sincerity and concern for my well-being, I had to suppress my initial response of righteous indignation. The message, however, is emblematic of a disturbing trend in our society: Any disagreement with a Black politician is automatically labeled a betrayal to the Black community. This tactic is not only intellectually disingenuous but dangerous; it stifles any meaningful discussion and analysis of policies and qualifications and feeds into the negative aspects of the diversity, equity and inclusion narrative. First and foremost, one’s race should not dictate one’s political beliefs or loyalties. We should all be able to freely and critically evaluate all candidates, regardless of their skin color. To suggest that I must blindly support (or at least not oppose) Ms. Harris because she is Black is to diminish both my agency as a person and her competence as a civic leader (the latter of which is questionable).



Alas, it did not. In her next position, as California attorney general, Ms. Harris again proved less than successful. In this role, she tended to side with criminals instead of their victims. As a result of her “Smart on Crime” policies, California experienced a 10% increase in violent crime, putting an end to what was a streak of 22 consecutive years in which violent crime went down in the president, a position she obtained solely because Democratic then-presidential nominee Joe Biden committed to selecting a Black woman as his running mate. Ms. Harris holds the second-highest office in the nation, and once again, she has failed to make any meaningful impact in her role. Whether in her role as “border czar,” as the overseer of the White House’s Office of Gun Violence Prevention or as the administration’s lead on tackling the challenges surrounding artificial intelligence, she cannot claim one significant achievement. She does get to claim credit for overseeing the worst border crisis in U.S. history. Yet despite her lack of merit and achievement at every stage of her career, liberal Democrats have deemed her the perfect fit to be their front-runner for the 2024 presidential election. While it may make for a compelling narrative to have Ms. Harris as the first Black woman to be a major party’s presidential nominee, that alone does not qualify her for the position. While it is understandable that some may want to support Ms. Harris in the name of equity, as symbolism can be powerful, we must remember that symbolism should never be prioritized over substance. Let us not reduce Ms. Harris to a mere symbol but hold her accountable for her actions and qualifications. To that end, Kamala Harris exemplifies the left’s brazen penchant for promoting incompetent leaders. She is the poster child for failing up. Her ascendancy to becoming the front-running Democratic nominee in 2024 is an unequivocal testament to the left’s detachment from reality and competence.

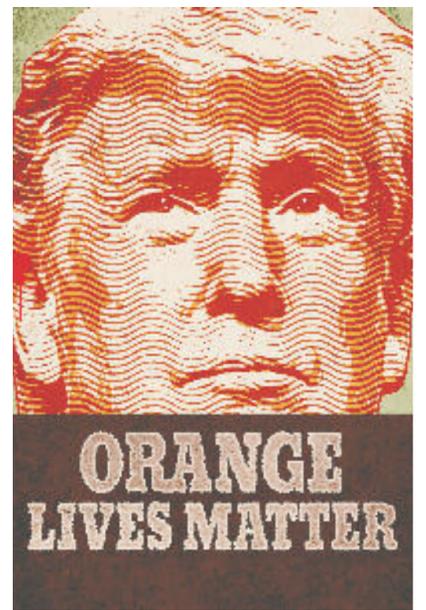


ILLUSTRATION BY GREG GROESCH

Seifert

From page B1

behind the Black Lives Matter movement, but they put their money where their mouth is. Companies lined up to donate to groups that support the end of the nuclear family and “defunding the police.” It was a wave of support for a political cause never before seen from corporate America. It transformed American politics and led to several police departments slashing their budget. But here’s the thing: Not one of these companies has spoken out about the attempted assassination of former President Donald Trump, and not one of them has encouraged donations to the family of Corey Comperatore, the patriotic American who was killed in Butler, Pennsylvania. One could argue that the leftist causes they championed over the years fostered the environment that led to the shooting of Mr. Trump. The Black Lives Matter Global Foundation, which received millions from corporate America, tweeted that Mr. Trump is a “terrorist.” The attempt on Mr. Trump’s life was one of the most shocking moments of my lifetime. We were less than an inch away from the abyss. Everyone recognizes this. That’s why world leaders such as France’s Emmanuel Macron and India’s Narendra Modi spoke out about the shooting. But for Uber and Nike, it’s worth speaking out only when a criminal dies in police custody. Consumers need to keep track of how the companies they support reacted to Mr. Trump’s shooting. After all, why stand by a company that refuses to stand by this nation? Michael Seifert is founder and CEO of Public Square.

An elected official with a track record of failure spanning her entire political career, Ms. Harris has consistently been rewarded with promotions by left-leaning voters. Her lackluster performance as district attorney of San Francisco should have been a red flag. She not only achieved abysmally low conviction rates but also failed to prosecute serious crimes effectively. She had the worst felony conviction rate of any big-city prosecutor in California and covered up a scandal involving San Francisco’s crime lab. Did this deter the left from propelling her further up the political hierarchy?

Golden State. And it has been going up ever since. Yet the Democrats lauded her and catapulted her into the U.S. Senate. And what did Ms. Harris achieve in the Senate? The answer is simple: nothing. Her record lacks any notable legislation or accomplishment. She did, however, earn the distinction of being ranked the most politically left member of the Senate and the second most absent in votes compared with her Senate colleagues, missing 55.1% of votes (397 of 720 votes) in the 116th Congress. Yet her not-so-noteworthy record in the Senate did not impede her ascension to vice

So while I appreciate my friend’s concern, I cannot align with the damaging narrative that I must blindly support a candidate solely based on their race. Our political choices should be based on thorough evaluation and analysis, not blind loyalty. To do otherwise would not only be a disservice to ourselves but also to our nation and our posterity. Project 21 Ambassador Craig J. DeLuz has almost 30 years in public policy and advocacy. He hosts a daily news and commentary show called “The Rundown.” Follow him on X @CraigDeLuz.

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Economic Minister
Embassy of Pakistan
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July 30, 2024 Ad#85848

TOWN OF OCCOQUAN, VIRGINIA
NOTICE OF JOINT PUBLIC HEARING OF PLANNING COMMISSION AND TOWN COUNCIL

August 6, 2024 - 7:00 PM
Notice is hereby given pursuant to § 15.2-2204 of the Code of Virginia, as amended, that the Occoquan Town Planning Commission and Town Council will conduct a joint Public Hearing on proposed amendments to the Zoning Ordinance. The proposed amendments are to accomplish the following:

1. Add a definition to section 157.008 for an accessory dwelling.
2. Add a section numbered 157.015 relating to accessory buildings, uses, and structures.
3. Amend sections 157.041, 157.061, 157.081, 157.101, and 157.121, covering the zoning districts, generally relating to regulations on accessory buildings and accessory dwellings.

The proposed amendments are available for review in Town Hall, 314 Mill Street, Occoquan, Virginia 22125 and online at www.occoquanva.gov.

The hearing is being held on August 6, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. at the Occoquan Town Hall, located at 314 Mill Street, Occoquan, Virginia 22125, at the Occoquan Town Planning Commission and Town Council respectively. The location of the public hearing is believed to be accessible to persons with disabilities. Any person with questions on the accessibility of the facility should contact the Town Clerk by mail at PO Box 195, Occoquan, VA 22125, by email at info@occoquanva.gov, or by telephone at (703) 491-1918. Persons needing interpreter services for the hearing impaired and/or vision impaired should notify the Town Clerk no later than one week prior to the hearings.

The Planning Commission and Town Council of the Town of Occoquan, Virginia

Run Dates: July 25, and 30, 2024 AD#85708

VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY

IN RE: SURPLUS FUNDS DERIVED FROM THE FORECLOSURE SALE OF PROPERTY LOCATED AT 2901 STOCKHOLM WAY WOODBRIDGE, VA 22191

Case No. CL24-6420

BEVERLY FREEMAN

Respondent.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION
The object of this suit is to interplead surplus funds into the Court's registry and allow potential claimants to file claims for the funds derived from the sale of real property known as 2901 Stockholm Way, Woodbridge, VA 22191.

It is hereby ORDERED that Beverly Freeman appear in the Circuit Court of the County of Prince William, Virginia to protect her interest in this matter on or before **September 16, 2024**, and it is further ORDERED that this Order of Publication be published once a week for four successive weeks in *The Washington Times*, a newspaper of general circulation in the County of Prince William, Virginia. The Washington Times shall send the Certificate of Publication and the bill to: BWW Law Group, LLC, 8100 Three Chopt Road, Suite 240, Richmond, Virginia 23229. Enter this 26th day of July, 2024

Jacqueline C. Smith, Esq.

Clerk of the Circuit Court
By: Susan Freche
Deputy Clerk

I ASK FOR THIS

Equity Trustees, LLC

By Counsel

Jessica S. Tate

VSB No. 84463
Supervising Attorney
BWW Law Group, LLC
8100 Three Chopt Road,
Suite 240,
Richmond, VA 23229
(804) 521-6133 (telephone)
(804) 521-6153 (facsimile)
jessica.tate@bww-law.com
Date: July 23, 2024

July 30, 2024
August 6, 13 & 20, 2024
AD#85836

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Bids & Proposals

NOTICE
BIDS ARE INVITED BY THE CITY OF ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA FOR THE GRANT OF A FRANCHISE PERMITTING THE GRANTEE TO USE CERTAIN PUBLIC PROPERTY TO DESIGN, INSTALL, OWN, OPERATE, MAINTAIN, REPAIR, UPGRADE, AND REMOVE PUBLICLY AVAILABLE ELECTRIC VEHICLE SUPPLY EQUIPMENT FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC INCLUDING INCIDENTAL DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION, AND MODIFICATIONS TO CITY INFRASTRUCTURE TO FURTHER AND ACCOMMODATE SUCH USE.

THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR THE FRANCHISE ARE ATTACHED TO THE ORDINANCE AND AVAILABLE ON THE CITY'S WEBSITE AT [HTTPS://WWW.ALEXANDRIAVA.GOV/ENERGY/ELECTRIC-VEHICLES](https://www.alexandriava.gov/energy/electric-vehicles).

THE TERM OF THE FRANCHISE IS NEGOTIABLE BUT SHALL BE FOR AN INITIAL TERM OF NO LESS THAN 10 YEARS WITH SUCCESSIVE EXTENSIONS OF 5 YEARS EACH, NOT TO EXCEED A TOTAL TERM OF FORTY YEARS, SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL.

ALL BIDS ARE TO BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING IN THE FORMAT REQUIRED BY THE TERMS AND SPECIFICATIONS OF THE INVITATION TO BID. THE BID DOCUMENTS ARE TO BE SENT TO AMY POSNER BY EMAIL AT AMY.POSNER@ALEXANDRIAVA.GOV AND MUST BE RECEIVED ON OR BEFORE 4 P.M. EASTERN TIME, SEPTEMBER 13, 2024. AT THAT TIME BIDS SHALL BE PUBLICLY OPENED AND BIDDERS IDENTIFIED. THE LOCATION OF THE BID OPENING WILL BE 301 KING STREET, ROOM 2000, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314.

IN ADDITION, IDENTIFICATION OF ALL BIDDERS SHALL BE ANNOUNCED, A BRIEF SUMMARY OF EACH BID RECEIVED SHALL BE READ, AND THE PRESIDING OFFICER SHALL INQUIRE IF ANY FURTHER BIDS ARE OFFERED IN OPEN SESSION OF THE CITY COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF ALEXANDRIA IN COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL, 301 KING STREET, SECOND FLOOR, ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA, 22314 ON SEPTEMBER 24, 2024 AT 7 P.M. EASTERN TIME. AT THE SEPTEMBER 24, 2024 MEETING, THE PRESIDING OFFICER SHALL DECLARE THE BIDDING CLOSED AND THE PRESIDING OFFICERS SHALL REFER THE BIDS RECEIVED TO THE CITY MANAGER AND/OR CITY STAFF TO EVALUATE, REVIEW, AND CONSIDER IN THE MANNER PRESCRIBED BY THE TERMS AND SPECIFICATIONS OF THE INVITATION TO BID, INCLUDING THE SELECTION OF, AND NEGOTIATION OF A FRANCHISE AGREEMENT OR SIMILAR DOCUMENT WITH A RESPONSIVE BIDDER. AS SOON THEREAFTER AS PRACTICABLE, THE CITY MANAGER AND/OR STAFF WILL RECOMMEND THE SUCCESSFUL BIDDER AND PRESENT THE NEGOTIATED FRANCHISE AGREEMENT FOR CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL BY CITY COUNCIL. THE CITY RESERVES THE RIGHT IN THE CITY MANAGER'S SOLE DISCRETION TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, TO TERMINATE NEGOTIATIONS AT ANY STAGE OF THE SELECTION PROCESS, AND TO READVISE THE ORDINANCE WITH OR WITHOUT MODIFICATIONS.

THE DESCRIPTIVE NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED FRANCHISE NOTICE IS AS FOLLOWS:

The proposed ordinance will grant an exclusive franchise under certain conditions, permitting the grantee to use certain public property in the City Of Alexandria, Virginia, to design, install, own, operate, maintain, repair, upgrade, and remove publicly available electric vehicle supply equipment, including incidental design, construction, and modifications to the City Of Alexandria, Virginia infrastructure to further and accommodate such use. Complete text of the ordinance is available in the Office of the City Clerk.

Gloria Sitton, CMC
City Clerk and Clerk of Council

Run Dates: July 30th, 2024
August 6th, 2024

AD#85832

Bids & Proposals

NOTICE
BIDS ARE INVITED BY THE CITY OF ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA FOR THE GRANT OF A FRANCHISE PERMITTING THE GRANTEE TO USE CERTAIN PUBLIC PROPERTY TO DESIGN, INSTALL, OWN, OPERATE, MAINTAIN, REPAIR, UPGRADE, AND REMOVE PUBLICLY AVAILABLE ELECTRIC VEHICLE SUPPLY EQUIPMENT FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC INCLUDING INCIDENTAL DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION, AND MODIFICATIONS TO CITY INFRASTRUCTURE TO FURTHER AND ACCOMMODATE SUCH USE.

THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR THE FRANCHISE ARE ATTACHED TO THE ORDINANCE AND AVAILABLE ON THE CITY'S WEBSITE AT [HTTPS://WWW.ALEXANDRIAVA.GOV/ENERGY/ELECTRIC-VEHICLES](https://www.alexandriava.gov/energy/electric-vehicles).

THE TERM OF THE FRANCHISE IS NEGOTIABLE BUT SHALL BE FOR AN INITIAL TERM OF NO LESS THAN 10 YEARS WITH SUCCESSIVE EXTENSIONS OF 5 YEARS EACH, NOT TO EXCEED A TOTAL TERM OF FORTY YEARS, SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL.

ALL BIDS ARE TO BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING IN THE FORMAT REQUIRED BY THE TERMS AND SPECIFICATIONS OF THE INVITATION TO BID. THE BID DOCUMENTS ARE TO BE SENT TO AMY POSNER BY EMAIL AT AMY.POSNER@ALEXANDRIAVA.GOV AND MUST BE RECEIVED ON OR BEFORE 4 P.M. EASTERN TIME, SEPTEMBER 13, 2024. AT THAT TIME BIDS SHALL BE PUBLICLY OPENED AND BIDDERS IDENTIFIED. THE LOCATION OF THE BID OPENING WILL BE 301 KING STREET, ROOM 2000, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314.

IN ADDITION, IDENTIFICATION OF ALL BIDDERS SHALL BE ANNOUNCED, A BRIEF SUMMARY OF EACH BID RECEIVED SHALL BE READ, AND THE PRESIDING OFFICER SHALL INQUIRE IF ANY FURTHER BIDS ARE OFFERED IN OPEN SESSION OF THE CITY COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF ALEXANDRIA IN COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL, 301 KING STREET, SECOND FLOOR, ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA, 22314 ON SEPTEMBER 24, 2024 AT 7 P.M. EASTERN TIME. AT THE SEPTEMBER 24, 2024 MEETING, THE PRESIDING OFFICER SHALL DECLARE THE BIDDING CLOSED AND THE PRESIDING OFFICERS SHALL REFER THE BIDS RECEIVED TO THE CITY MANAGER AND/OR CITY STAFF TO EVALUATE, REVIEW, AND CONSIDER IN THE MANNER PRESCRIBED BY THE TERMS AND SPECIFICATIONS OF THE INVITATION TO BID, INCLUDING THE SELECTION OF, AND NEGOTIATION OF A FRANCHISE AGREEMENT OR SIMILAR DOCUMENT WITH A RESPONSIVE BIDDER. AS SOON THEREAFTER AS PRACTICABLE, THE CITY MANAGER AND/OR STAFF WILL RECOMMEND THE SUCCESSFUL BIDDER AND PRESENT THE NEGOTIATED FRANCHISE AGREEMENT FOR CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL BY CITY COUNCIL. THE CITY RESERVES THE RIGHT IN THE CITY MANAGER'S SOLE DISCRETION TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, TO TERMINATE NEGOTIATIONS AT ANY STAGE OF THE SELECTION PROCESS, AND TO READVISE THE ORDINANCE WITH OR WITHOUT MODIFICATIONS.

THE DESCRIPTIVE NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED FRANCHISE NOTICE IS AS FOLLOWS:

The proposed ordinance will grant an exclusive franchise under certain conditions, permitting the grantee to use certain public property in the City Of Alexandria, Virginia, to design, install, own, operate, maintain, repair, upgrade, and remove publicly available electric vehicle supply equipment, including incidental design, construction, and modifications to the City Of Alexandria, Virginia infrastructure to further and accommodate such use. Complete text of the ordinance is available in the Office of the City Clerk.

Gloria Sitton, CMC
City Clerk and Clerk of Council

Run Dates: July 30th, 2024
August 6th, 2024

AD#85832

Bids & Proposals

NOTICE
BIDS ARE INVITED BY THE CITY OF ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA FOR THE GRANT OF A FRANCHISE PERMITTING THE GRANTEE TO USE CERTAIN PUBLIC PROPERTY TO DESIGN, INSTALL, OWN, OPERATE, MAINTAIN, REPAIR, UPGRADE, AND REMOVE PUBLICLY AVAILABLE ELECTRIC VEHICLE SUPPLY EQUIPMENT FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC INCLUDING INCIDENTAL DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION, AND MODIFICATIONS TO CITY INFRASTRUCTURE TO FURTHER AND ACCOMMODATE SUCH USE.

THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR THE FRANCHISE ARE ATTACHED TO THE ORDINANCE AND AVAILABLE ON THE CITY'S WEBSITE AT [HTTPS://WWW.ALEXANDRIAVA.GOV/ENERGY/ELECTRIC-VEHICLES](https://www.alexandriava.gov/energy/electric-vehicles).

THE TERM OF THE FRANCHISE IS NEGOTIABLE BUT SHALL BE FOR AN INITIAL TERM OF NO LESS THAN 10 YEARS WITH SUCCESSIVE EXTENSIONS OF 5 YEARS EACH, NOT TO EXCEED A TOTAL TERM OF FORTY YEARS, SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL.

ALL BIDS ARE TO BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING IN THE FORMAT REQUIRED BY THE TERMS AND SPECIFICATIONS OF THE INVITATION TO BID. THE BID DOCUMENTS ARE TO BE SENT TO AMY POSNER BY EMAIL AT AMY.POSNER@ALEXANDRIAVA.GOV AND MUST BE RECEIVED ON OR BEFORE 4 P.M. EASTERN TIME, SEPTEMBER 13, 2024. AT THAT TIME BIDS SHALL BE PUBLICLY OPENED AND BIDDERS IDENTIFIED. THE LOCATION OF THE BID OPENING WILL BE 301 KING STREET, ROOM 2000, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314.

IN ADDITION, IDENTIFICATION OF ALL BIDDERS SHALL BE ANNOUNCED, A BRIEF SUMMARY OF EACH BID RECEIVED SHALL BE READ, AND THE PRESIDING OFFICER SHALL INQUIRE IF ANY FURTHER BIDS ARE OFFERED IN OPEN SESSION OF THE CITY COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF ALEXANDRIA IN COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL, 301 KING STREET, SECOND FLOOR, ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA, 22314 ON SEPTEMBER 24, 2024 AT 7 P.M. EASTERN TIME. AT THE SEPTEMBER 24, 2024 MEETING, THE PRESIDING OFFICER SHALL DECLARE THE BIDDING CLOSED AND THE PRESIDING OFFICERS SHALL REFER THE BIDS RECEIVED TO THE CITY MANAGER AND/OR CITY STAFF TO EVALUATE, REVIEW, AND CONSIDER IN THE MANNER PRESCRIBED BY THE TERMS AND SPECIFICATIONS OF THE INVITATION TO BID, INCLUDING THE SELECTION OF, AND NEGOTIATION OF A FRANCHISE AGREEMENT OR SIMILAR DOCUMENT WITH A RESPONSIVE BIDDER. AS SOON THEREAFTER AS PRACTICABLE, THE CITY MANAGER AND/OR STAFF WILL RECOMMEND THE SUCCESSFUL BIDDER AND PRESENT THE NEGOTIATED FRANCHISE AGREEMENT FOR CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL BY CITY COUNCIL. THE CITY RESERVES THE RIGHT IN THE CITY MANAGER'S SOLE DISCRETION TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, TO TERMINATE NEGOTIATIONS AT ANY STAGE OF THE SELECTION PROCESS, AND TO READVISE THE ORDINANCE WITH OR WITHOUT MODIFICATIONS.

THE DESCRIPTIVE NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED FRANCHISE NOTICE IS AS FOLLOWS:

The proposed ordinance will grant an exclusive franchise under certain conditions, permitting the grantee to use certain public property in the City Of Alexandria, Virginia, to design, install, own, operate, maintain, repair, upgrade, and remove publicly available electric vehicle supply equipment, including incidental design, construction, and modifications to the City Of Alexandria, Virginia infrastructure to further and accommodate such use. Complete text of the ordinance is available in the Office of the City Clerk.

Gloria Sitton, CMC
City Clerk and Clerk of Council

Run Dates: July 30th, 2024
August 6th, 2024

AD#85832

AD#85832

AD#85832

AD#85832

AD#85832

AD#85832

Trustee Sales: Fairfax Co.

Trustee's Sale
5501 Seminary Road Apt#1114, Falls Church, VA 22041

Default having been made in the terms of a certain Deed of Trust dated 06/22/2006, in the original principal amount of \$306,000.00 and recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of the Fairfax county, Virginia on 07/05/2006, as Instrument No. 2006021273.002, in Book 18587, Page 2133, the undersigned Substitute Trustees will sell at public auction on 9/4/2024 at 12:00 PM, Fairfax Circuit Court, at the front of the courthouse, 4110 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax, VA 22030, the property designated as:

The following described property, situate, lying and being in Fairfax County, Virginia, to wit:

Condominium Unit #11145 in SKYLINE SQUARE CONDOMINIUM, in accordance with the Declaration and Plat attached thereto, duly recorded in Deed Book 5630, at Page 536, et seq., among the land records of Fairfax County, Virginia, and further shown in Exhibits attached thereto, all of which are hereafter referred to collectively as the "Declaration". Together with the exclusive right to use the limited common element hereby made legally appurtenant to and attached to the above-described condominium unit.

TERMS: CASH. A deposit of \$30,600.00 or 10% of the sale price, whichever is lower, will be required of the successful bidder at time of sale. Prior to the sale, interested bidders will be required to register with and must present a bid deposit which may be held during the sale by the trustee. The bid deposit must be certified funds and/or cash, but no more than \$9,900.00 of cash will be accepted. The successful bidder's deposit will be retained at the sale and applied to the sale price. If held by the trustee, all other bid deposits will be returned to the unsuccessful bidders. Settlement is to be made within 15 days. The successful bidder will be responsible for obtaining possession of the property, and for all costs and fees related to recording the Trustee's Deed, including the grantors tax. The successful bidder will be required to execute a Memorandum of Trustee's Sale, available for review upon request before the sale, outlining additional terms of sale and settlement. A Trustee's Deed will be prepared by Trustee's attorney at high bidder's expense.

For More Information Contact:

Western Progressive - Virginia, Inc
Regus Arlington Ballston, 4250 N Fairfax Drive, Suite 600
Office Number 675
Arlington VA 22203
Telephone #: 866-960-8299
Fax #: 866-960-8298
Email: TrusteeQuote@altisource.com

Run Dates: July 30th, 2024
August 6th, 2024

AD#85174

Trustee's Sale
7855 Enola Street Apt. 101, Tysons Corner a/k/a McLean, Virginia 22102
(Tax Map No.: 0392 2605101)

Default having been made in the terms of a certain Deed of Trust dated September 6, 2017, in the original principal amount of \$151,200.00 and recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of the County of Fairfax, Virginia in Deed Book 25176, page 1741, the undersigned Substitute Trustees will sell at public auction on August 20, 2024, at 1:15pm in front of the building housing the Fairfax County Circuit Court, 4110 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax, VA 22030, the property designated as Condominium Unit Number 5-7855-101-1 of McLean Hills, a Condominium pursuant to the Declaration recorded on August 28, 1984, in Deed Book 6013 at Page 60, among the land records of Fairfax County, Virginia. Together with the use and enjoyment of the Limited Common Elements appurtenant thereto, as set forth in the Restrictions and Reservations for said Condominium. NOTE: Previous Deeds erroneously state the Unit Number as 5-7877-101-1. The correct Unit Number is 5-7855-101-1 as stated in the legal above. 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 \$15,120.00 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 NFPDS-VA LLC, Substitute Trustees, Crown Center Building, Suite 600, 580 East Main Street, Norfolk, VA 23510, File No. 226867-02. Tel: (757) 321-6465, between 10:00 a.m. & 12:00 noon only.

Run Dates: July 30th, 2024
August 6th, 2024

AD#84889

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF
2208 HARVARD DRIVE,
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22307

In execution of a Deed of Trust in the original principal amount of \$340,000.00, with an annual interest rate of 2.875000% dated June 30, 2006, recorded among the land records of the Circuit Court for the COUNTY OF FAIRFAX as Deed Book 18589, Page 1859, the undersigned appointed Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction all that property located in the COUNTY OF FAIRFAX, on the courthouse steps at the front of the Circuit Court building for the County of Fairfax located at 4110 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax, Virginia on September 24, 2024 at 1:15 PM, the property with improvements to wit:

BUCKNELL MANOR LT 5 BLK C

Tax Map No. 0833 13C 0005

THIS COMMUNICATION IS FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

TERMS OF SALE: ALL CASH. A bidder's deposit of 10% of the sale price, will be required in cash, certified or cashier's check. Settlement within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Trustees may forfeit deposit. Additional terms to be announced at sale. Loan type: Conventional. Reference Number 15-250398.

PROFESSIONAL FORECLOSURE CORPORATION OF VIRGINIA, Substitute Trustees, C/O LOGS LEGAL GROUP LLP, Mailing Address: 10130 Perimeter Parkway, Suite 400, Charlotte, North Carolina 28216 (703) 449-5800.

Run Dates: July 30th, 2024
August 20th, 2024
August 27th, 2024

AD#85533

Trustee Sales: Fairfax Co.

Trustee's Sale
13621 Venturi Lane, Oak Hill, VA 20171
(Parcel Id: 0154 07 0160)

Default having been made in the terms of a certain Deed of Trust dated 10/27/2006, in the original principal amount of \$343,950.00 and recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of the Fairfax county, Virginia on 10/31/2006, as Instrument No. 2006033754.013, in Book 18876, Page 2006, the undersigned Substitute Trustees will sell at public auction on 09/04/2024 at 12:00 PM, Fairfax Circuit Court, at the front of the courthouse, 4110 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax, VA 22030, the property designated as:

Unit 160, Phase Nine (9), Coppermine Crossing Condominiums, as the same is set forth in Declaration of Coppermine Crossing Condominium recorded in Deed Book 15431 at page 321, as corrected and re-recorded in Deed Book 15438 at page 2001; as further amended by Amendment to Declaration recorded in Deed Book 17666 at page 2041, corrected in Deed Book 17873 at page 657; Deed Book 17794 at page 2051; Deed Book 17863 at page 2109; Deed Book 17873 at page 657; Deed Book 18052 at page 1039; Deed Book 18066 at page 864; Deed Book 18130 at page 1437; Deed Book 18222 at page 65; Deed Book 18311 at page 1150; Deed Book 18397 at page 180; Deed Book 18686 page 560 and Deed Book 18842 page 1876, any and all subsequent amendments thereto, among the Land Records of Fairfax County, Virginia.

TOGETHER WITH an undivided interest in the common elements appurtenant thereto, as amended from time to time, as more specifically defined in Amendment to Declaration dated October 16, 2006, recorded October 18, 2006, in deed book 18842 page 1876, among the aforesaid land records.

TERMS: CASH. A deposit of \$34,395.00 or 10% of the sale price, whichever is lower, will be required of the successful bidder at time of sale. Prior to the sale, interested bidders will be required to register with and must present a bid deposit which may be held during the sale by the trustee. The bid deposit must be certified funds and/or cash, but no more than \$9,900.00 of cash will be accepted. The successful bidder's deposit will be retained at the sale and applied to the sale price. If held by the trustee, all other bid deposits will be returned to the unsuccessful bidders. Settlement is to be made within 15 days. The successful bidder will be responsible for obtaining possession of the property, and for all costs and fees related to recording the Trustee's Deed, including the grantors tax. The successful bidder will be required to execute a Memorandum of Trustee's Sale, available for review upon request before the sale, outlining additional terms of sale and settlement. A Trustee's Deed will be prepared by Trustee's attorney at high bidder's expense.

For More Information Contact:

Western Progressive - Virginia, Inc
Regus Arlington Ballston, 4250 N Fairfax Drive, Suite 600
Office Number 675
Arlington VA 22203
Telephone #: 866-960-8299
Fax #: 866-960-8298
Email: TrusteeQuote@altisource.com

Run Dates: July 30th, 2024
August 6th, 2024

AD#85175

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF
6810 RIGBY LANE,
MCLEAN, VIRGINIA 22101
COUNTY OF FAIRFAX

In execution of a certain deed of trust dated 06/06/07, in the original principal amount of \$12,500.00 recorded in the County of Fairfax, Virginia, as Book 19379, Page 1830, as Instrument No. 2007016686.002, as amended by an instrument appointing the undersigned as Substitute Trustee, default having occurred in the payment of the Note thereby secured and at the request of the holder, the undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction in the front of the building housing the Circuit Court of the COUNTY OF FAIRFAX, VA located at 4110 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax, Virginia, 22030 on August 22, 2024, at 11:00 am, the property described in said deed of trust, located at the above address, with improvements thereon and more particularly described as follows: LOT 14, MCLEAN CREST, AS THE SAME APPEARS DULY DEDICATED, PLATTED AND RECORDED IN DEED BOOK 10062 AT PAGE 1181, AMONG THE LAND RECORDS OF FAIRFAX COUNTY, VIRGINIA TERMS OF SALE: Neither the Substitute Trustee nor the holder of the note secured by the deed of trust will deliver possession of the property to the successful bidder. The purchaser at the sale will be required to pay all closing costs. Real estate taxes, water/sewer fees and other public charges will be prorated as of the date of sale. The risk of loss or damage to the property passes to the purchaser immediately upon the conclusion of the Substitute Trustee's sale. Terms: A bidder's deposit of ten percent (10%) of the sale price or ten percent price (10%) of the original principal balance of the subject deed of trust, whichever is lower, in the form of cash or certified funds payable to the Substitute Trustee must be present at the time of sale. The balance of the purchase price will be due within 20 days at the office of the Substitute Trustee. The Substitute Trustee reserves the right to suspend bidding prior to completion of the sale. Time is of the essence as to the closing date and the payment of the purchase price. If payment of the balance does not occur within twenty days of the sale date, the deposit will be forfeited. Seller shall not be responsible for any costs incurred by the purchaser in connection with their purchase or settlement, including, without limitation, state and local recording fees, title insurance or research, or any other costs of purchaser's acquisition. Trustee shall have no duty to obtain possession for purchaser. All risks of casualty pass to successful bidder at conclusion of bidding. The property and the improvements thereon will be sold "AS IS" and without representation or warranties of any kind. The sale is subject to all liens, encumbrances, conditions, easements and restrictions, if any, superior to the mentioned deed of trust and lawfully affecting the property. Sale is subject to post-sale confirmation that the borrower did not file for protection under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code prior to the sale, as well as to post-sale confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the loan servicer including, but not limited to, determination of whether the borrower(s) entered into any repayment agreement, reinstated or paid off the loan prior to the sale. In any such event, the sale shall be null and void, and the Purchaser's sole remedy, in law or equity, shall be the return of the Purchaser's deposit without interest. Additional terms to be announced at the sale. For more information contact: Michael T. Cantrell, Esq., member of Surety Trustees, at 301-490-3361 or www.mwc-law.com.

July 23rd, 2024
July 30th, 2024

AD#84749



The Washington Times

Trustee Sales: Fairfax Co.

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF
8330 CARNEGIE DRIVE,
VIENNA, VIRGINIA 22180
COUNTY OF FAIRFAX

This Property will be sold subject to a first lien and sold in second position.

In execution of a certain deed of trust dated 12/18/06, in the original principal amount of \$123,000.00 recorded in the County of Fairfax, Virginia, as Book 19019, Page 1540, as Instrument No. 2006039721.012, as amended by an instrument appointing the undersigned as Substitute Trustee, default having occurred at the request of the Note thereby secured and at the request of the holder, the undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction in the front of the building housing the Circuit Court for the COUNTY OF FAIRFAX, located at 4110 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax, Virginia, 22030 on August 15, 2024, at 11:00 am, the property described in said deed of trust, located at the above address, with improvements thereon and more particularly described as follows: LOT 26, BLOCK E, SECTION 5, DUNN LORING WOODS, AS THE SAME APPEARS DULY DEDICATED, PLATTED AND RECORDED IN DEED BOOK 2088 AT PAGE 625, AMONG THE LAND RECORDS OF FAIRFAX COUNTY, VIRGINIA. TERMS OF SALE: Neither the Substitute Trustee nor the holder of the note secured by the deed of trust will deliver possession of the property to the successful bidder. The purchaser at the sale will be required to pay all closing costs. Real estate taxes, water/sewer fees and other public charges will be prorated as of the date of sale. The risk of loss or damage to the property passes to the purchaser immediately upon the conclusion of the Substitute Trustee's sale. Terms: A bidder's deposit of ten percent (10%) of the sale price or ten percent price (10%) of the original principal balance of the subject deed of trust, whichever is lower, in the form of cash or certified funds payable to the Substitute Trustee must be present at the time of sale. The balance of the purchase price will be due within 20 days at the office of the Substitute Trustee. The Substitute Trustee reserves the right to suspend bidding prior to completion of the sale. Time is of the essence as to the closing date and the payment of the purchase price. If payment of the balance does not occur within twenty days of the sale date, the deposit will be forfeited. Seller shall not be responsible for any costs incurred by the purchaser in connection with their purchase or settlement, including, without limitation, state and local recording fees, title insurance or research, or any other costs of purchaser's acquisition. Trustee shall have no duty to obtain possession for purchaser. All risks of casualty pass to successful bidder at conclusion of bidding. The property and the improvements thereon will be sold "AS IS" and without representation or warranties of any kind. The sale is subject to all liens, encumbrances, conditions, easements and restrictions, if any, superior to the mentioned deed of trust and lawfully affecting the property. Sale is subject to post-sale confirmation that the borrower did not file for protection under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code prior to the sale, as well as to post-sale confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the loan servicer including, but not limited to, determination of whether the borrower(s) entered into any repayment agreement, reinstated or paid off the loan prior to the sale. In any such event, the sale shall be null and void, and the Purchaser's sole remedy, in law or equity, shall be the return of the Purchaser's deposit without interest. Additional terms to be announced at the sale. For more information contact: Michael T. Cantrell, Esq., member of Surety Trustees, at 301-490-3361 or www.mwc-law.com.

July 9th, 2024
July 16th, 2024
July 23rd, 2024
July 30th, 2024

AD#84405

NOTICE OF SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE SALE
4001 Guinea Road,
Annandale, VA 22003

By virtue of the power and authority contained in a Deed of Trust dated January 24, 2006 and recorded January 31, 2006 in Book 18180 Page 0905 Instrument Number 2006003985.005 in the Clerk's Office for the Fairfax County Virginia Circuit Court, Virginia, securing a loan which was originally \$750,000.00. The appointed SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE, Commonwealth Trustees, LLC will offer for sale at public auction at the front of the entrance of the Fairfax County Circuit Court Courthouse located at 4110 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax, VA 22030.

August 30, 2024 at 11:00 AM

improved real property, with an abbreviated legal description of the following described property, to wit:

Being part of Lot Number Seven (7), of the Division of Land of Ashton C. Jones, et. al., as recorded in Deed Book V-11 at Page 63 and shown on plat attached thereto made by Walter Ralph, C.L.S. and more particularly described as follows: Beginning at a point in the center of Guinea Road at its intersection with the Southerly side of Little River Turnpike (as widened to 60') then with the center of said road, S 21 degrees 07' W, 167.22' to a point; thence with new division line through the residue of the Bennett Property, S 80 degrees 25' 30" E, 278.22' to a pipe on the easterly side of said Lot 7 and the westerly line of Lot 6, thence with said line N. 11 degrees 56' E. 63.98' to a pipe on the southerly side of Little River Turnpike (as widened), thence with said Pike N. 80 degrees 25' 30" W. 252.52' to beginning, containing 1.00 acres;

Less And Except that portion of said tract conveyed to the Commonwealth of Virginia, in Deed Book 1603 at Page 527 and platted in State Highway Plat Book 2, at Page 311, and containing 0.06 Acres, More or Less, reference being made to the same for a more particular description therein. AND as more fully described in the aforesaid Deed of Trust.

TERMS OF SALE: The property will be sold "AS IS," WITHOUT REPRESENTATION OR WARRANTY OF ANY KIND AND SUBJECT TO conditions, restrictions, reservations, easements, rights of way, and all other matters of record taking priority over the Deed of Trust to be announced at the time of sale. A deposit of \$20,000 or 10% of the sale price, whichever is lower, will be required at the time of sale, in the form of certified check, cashier's check or money order by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price, with interest at the rate contained in the Deed of Trust Note from the date of sale to the date said funds are received in the office of the SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE, will be due within fifteen (15) days of sale. In the event of default by the successful bidder, the entire deposit shall be forfeited and applied to the costs and expenses of sale and Substitute Trustee's fee. All other public charges or assessments, including water/sewer charges, whether incurred prior to or after the sale, and all other costs incident to settlement to be paid by the purchaser. In the event taxes, any other public charges have been advanced, a credit will be due to the seller, to be adjusted from the date of sale at the time of settlement. Purchaser agrees to pay the seller's attorneys at settlement, a fee of \$470.00 for review of the settlement documents. Additional terms will be announced at the time of sale and the successful bidder will be required to execute and deliver to the Substitute Trustees a memorandum or contract of the sale at the conclusion of bidding.

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

Rosenberg & Associates, LLC
(Attorney for the Secured Party)
4340 East West Highway, Suite 600
Bethesda, Maryland 20814
301-907-8000
www.rosenberg-assoc.com

July 30th, 2024
August 6th, 2024

AD#84900

Trustee Sales: Fairfax Co.

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 1764 WESTWIND WAY, UNIT 102, A/R/T/A 1764 WESTWIND WAY, UNIT 102A, MCLEAN, VA 22102. In execution of a certain Deed of Trust dated August 26, 2005, in the original principal amount of \$242,000.00 recorded in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court for Fairfax County, Virginia, in Book 17746 at Page 0687 as Instrument No. 2005037899.001. The undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction in the front of the Circuit Court building for Fairfax County, 4110 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax, VA, on September 4, 2024, at 11:45 AM, the property described in said Deed of Trust, located at the above address, and more particularly described as follows: THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED PROPERTY, SITUATE, LYING AND BEING IN FAIRFAX COUNTY, VIRGINIA, TO WIT: ALL THAT CERTAIN LOT OR PARCEL OF LAND TOGETHER WITH ALL IMPROVEMENTS THEREON, SITUATE, LYING AND BEING IN THE COUNTY OF FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA, AND BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: TOWNHOUSE, NO. 102-A, THE WESTERLIES, A CONDOMINIUM, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DECLARATION OF A MASTER DEED RECORDED IN DEED BOOK 3519 AT PAGE 425, AMONG THE LAND RECORDS OF FAIRFAX COUNTY, VIRGINIA, AND AMENDED BY DEED OF CORRECTION RECORDED AMONG THE AFORESAID COUNTY RECORDS IN DEED BOOK 3525 AT PAGE 224. 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-354436-3.

July 30, 2024
August 6, 2024

AD#85100

TRUSTEE SALE
5531 Shipley Ct,
Centreville, VA 20120
Fairfax County

In execution of a Deed of Trust in the original principal amount of \$307,500.00, dated September 23, 2013 recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of the Fairfax County, Virginia, in Document No. 2013041949.002, in Book No. 23401, at Page 0525 and modified in Document No. 2020035268.004, in Book No. 26196, at Page 0359 and modified in Document No. 2023023990.001, in Book No. 27919, at Page 1127, at the request of the holder of the Note, the undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction at the entrance to the Fairfax County Judicial Center, 4110 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax, on September 3, 2024 at 11:30 AM the property described in said deed, located at the above address and briefly described as:

Lot 24, Section 3, Sequoia Farms, with any improvements thereon

Subject to any and all covenants, conditions, restrictions, easements, and all other matters of record taking priority over the Deed of Trust, if any, affecting the aforesaid property.

TERMS OF SALE: CASH: A deposit of \$20,000.00 or 10% of the sales price, whichever is lower, cash or certified check will be required at the time of sale, but no more than \$10,000.00 of cash will be accepted, with settlement within fifteen (15) days from the date of sale. Sale is subject to post sale confirmation that the borrower did not file for protection under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code prior to the sale which affects the validity of the sale, as well as to post-sale confirmation of the status of the loan with the loan servicer including, but not limited to, determination of whether the borrower entered into any repayment agreement, reinstated or paid off the loan prior to the sale. In any such event, the sale shall be null and void, and the Purchaser's sole remedy, in law or equity, shall be the return of his deposit without interest. Additional terms may be announced at the time of sale. Pursuant to the Federal Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, we advise you that this firm is a debt collector attempting to collect the indebtedness referred to herein and any information we obtain will be used for that purpose.

SAMUEL I. WHITE, P.C., Substitute Trustee

July 30, 2024
August 6, 2024

AD#85059

This is a communication from a debt collector.

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

SAMUEL I. WHITE, P.C. (89320)
448 Viking Drive, Suite 350
Virginia Beach, Virginia 23452
757-457-1460 - Call Between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.
or visit our website at www.siwpcc.net

July 30th, 2024
August 6th, 2024

AD#85698

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF
10918 WARWICK AVENUE,
FAIRFAX, VA 22030

In execution of a Deed of Trust in the original principal amount of \$118,969.78, with an annual interest rate of 3.875000% dated July 31, 2015, recorded among the land records of the Circuit Court for the County of Fairfax as Deed Book 24243, Page 0095, the undersigned appointed Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction all that property located in the County of Fairfax, on the courthouse steps at the front of the Circuit Court building for the County of Fairfax located at 4110 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax, Virginia on September 24, 2024 at 10:00 AM, the property with improvements to wit:

TOWN & COUNTRY FOREST LT 26 - 12711 SF 9598-1265

Tax Map No. 57 1 26 026

THIS COMMUNICATION IS FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

TERMS OF SALE: ALL CASH. A bidder's deposit of 10% of the sale price, will be required in cash, certified or cashier's check. Settlement within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Trustees may forfeit deposit. Additional terms to be announced at sale. Loan type: Conventional. Reference Number 24-296697.

PROFESSIONAL FORECLOSURE CORPORATION OF VIRGINIA, Substitute Trustees, C/O LOGS LEGAL GROUP LLP, Mailing Address: 10130 Perimeter Parkway, Suite 400, Charlotte, North Carolina 28216 (703) 449-5800.

Run Dates: July 30th, 2024
August 20th, 2024
August 27th, 2024

AD#85562

Trustee Sales: Fairfax Co.

Trustee's Sale
14550 Oakmere Dr,
Centreville, VA 20120
(Parcel Id: 0443 04 0375)

Default having been made in the terms of a certain Deed of Trust dated 11/01/2005, in the original principal amount of \$353,000.00 and recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of the Fairfax county, Virginia on 11/10/2005, as Instrument No. 2005046291.001, in Book 17945, Page 2004, the undersigned Substitute Trustees will sell at public auction on 09/04/2024 at 12:00 PM, Fairfax Circuit Court, at the front of the courthouse, 4110 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax, VA 22030, the property designated as:

LOT 375, SECTION 10, SULLY STATION, AS THE SAME APPEARS DULY DEDICATED, PLATTED AND RECORDED IN DEED BOOK 6872 AT PAGE 450 AMONG THE LAND RECORDS OF FAIRFAX COUNTY, VIRGINIA.

TERMS: CASH. A deposit of \$35,300.00 or 10% of the sale price, whichever is lower, will be required of the successful bidder at time of sale. Prior to the sale, interested bidders will be required to register with and must present a bid deposit which may be held during the sale by the trustee. The bid deposit must be certified funds and/or cash, but no more than \$9,900.00 of cash will be accepted. The successful bidder's deposit will be retained at the sale and applied to the sale price. If held by the trustee, all other bid deposits will be returned to the unsuccessful bidders. Settlement is to be made within 15 days. The successful bidder will be responsible for obtaining possession of the property, and for all costs and fees related to recording the Trustee's Deed, including the grantors tax. The successful bidder will be required to execute a Memorandum of Trustee's Sale, available for review upon request before the sale, outlining additional terms of sale and settlement. A Trustee's Deed will be prepared by Trustee's attorney at high bidder's expense.

For More Information Contact:

Western Progressive - Virginia, Inc
Regus Arlington Ballston, 4250 N Fairfax Drive, Suite 600
Office Number 675
Arlington VA 22203
Telephone #: 866-960-8299
Fax #: 866-960-8298
Email: TrusteeQuote@altisource.com

Run Dates: July 30th, 2024
August 6th, 2024

AD#84911

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 7614 RANGE ROAD, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22306. In execution of a certain Deed of Trust dated May 12, 2005, in the original principal amount of \$480,000.00 recorded in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court for Fairfax County, Virginia, in Book 17285 at Page 1345 as Instrument No. 2005019317.013. The undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction in the front of the Circuit Court building for Fairfax County, 4110 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax, VA, on September 4, 2024, at 11:45 AM, the property described in said Deed of Trust, located at the above address, and more particularly described as follows: LOT 87, "SECTION 3 AND RESUBDIVISION OF LOT 49, SECTION 2, KIRKSIDE", AS THE SAME APPEARS DULY DEDICATED, PLATTED AND RECORDED IN DEED BOOK 2364 AT PAGE 258 AND SUPPLEMENTED BY SUPPLEMENTAL DEED OF DEDICATION RECORDED IN DEED BOOK 2383 AT PAGE 546, AMONG THE LAND RECORDS OF FAIRFAX 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



Trustee Sales: Fairfax Co.

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 5611 BIRCHLEAF PARK COURT, CENTREVILLE, VA 20120

In execution of a Deed of Trust in the original principal amount of \$350,000.00, with an annual interest rate of 5.750000% dated April 1, 2004, recorded among the land records of the Circuit Court for the County of Fairfax as Deed Book 15883, Page 1990, the undersigned appointed Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction all that property located in the County of Fairfax, on the courthouse steps at the front of the Circuit Court building for the County of Fairfax located at 4110 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax, Virginia on October 1, 2024 at 10:00 AM, the property with improvements to wit:

Rocky Run LT 147 Sec 5

Tax Map No. 0541 07 0147

THIS COMMUNICATION IS FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

TERMS OF SALE: ALL CASH. A bidder's deposit of 10% of the sale price, will be required in cash, certified or cashier's check. Settlement within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Trustees may forfeit deposit. Additional terms to be announced at sale. Loan type: Conventional. Reference Number 24-296781.

PROFESSIONAL FORECLOSURE CORPORATION OF VIRGINIA, Substitute Trustees, C/O LOGS LEGAL GROUP LLP, Mailing Address: 10130 Perimeter Parkway, Suite 400, Charlotte, North Carolina 28216 (703) 449-5800.

Run Dates: July 30th, 2024 August 27th, 2024 September 3rd, 2024

AD#85733

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 13536 LEITH COURT, CHANTILLY, VA 20151

In execution of a Deed of Trust in the original principal amount of \$253,791.50, with an annual interest rate of 5.740000% dated February 25, 2008, recorded among the land records of the Circuit Court for the County of Fairfax as Deed Book 19853, Page 0793, the undersigned appointed Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction all that property located in the County of Fairfax, on the courthouse steps at the front of the Circuit Court building for the County of Fairfax located at 4110 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax, Virginia on August 27, 2024 at 10:00 AM, the property with improvements to wit:

ARMFIELD ESTATES LT 29A

Tax Map No. 0344 09 0029A

THIS COMMUNICATION IS FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

TERMS OF SALE: ALL CASH. A bidder's deposit of 10% of the sale price, will be required in cash, certified or cashier's check. Settlement within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Trustees may forfeit deposit. Additional terms to be announced at sale. Loan type: Conventional. Reference Number 24-296700.

PROFESSIONAL FORECLOSURE CORPORATION OF VIRGINIA, Substitute Trustees, C/O LOGS LEGAL GROUP LLP, Mailing Address: 10130 Perimeter Parkway, Suite 400, Charlotte, North Carolina 28216 (703) 449-5800.

Run Dates: June 25th, 2024 July 23rd, 2024 July 30th, 2024

AD#84814

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 9903 BEACH MILL ROAD, GREAT FALLS, VA 22066

In execution of a Deed of Trust in the original principal amount of \$2,263,000.00, with an annual interest rate of 4.500000% dated September 18, 2007, recorded among the land records of the Circuit Court for the County of Fairfax as Deed Book 19571, Page 1881, the undersigned appointed Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction all that property located in the County of Fairfax, on the courthouse steps at the front of the Circuit Court building for the County of Fairfax located at 4110 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax, Virginia on October 1, 2024 at 1:15 PM, the property with improvements to wit:

SCHLEGEL SUBD LT 1

Tax Map No. 0081-01-0017

THIS COMMUNICATION IS FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

TERMS OF SALE: ALL CASH. A bidder's deposit of 10% of the sale price, will be required in cash, certified or cashier's check. Settlement within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Trustees may forfeit deposit. Additional terms to be announced at sale. Loan type: Conventional. Reference Number 20-287520.

PROFESSIONAL FORECLOSURE CORPORATION OF VIRGINIA, Substitute Trustees, C/O LOGS LEGAL GROUP LLP, Mailing Address: 10130 Perimeter Parkway, Suite 400, Charlotte, North Carolina 28216 (703) 449-5800.

Run Dates: July 30th, 2024 August 27th, 2024 September 3rd, 2024

AD#85694

Legal Notices

DC & Maryland 202-636-4953 Virginia 703-425-0903



The Washington Times

Trustee Sales: Arlington Co.

TRUSTEE SALE 1307 N Danville St, Arlington, VA 22201 Arlington County

In execution of a Deed of Trust in the original principal amount of \$1,168,700.00, dated June 22, 2007 recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of the Arlington County, Virginia, in Document No. 2007186177, in Book No. 4114, at Page 2508, at the request of the holder of the Note, the undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction at the entrance to the Circuit Court of Arlington County, 1425 N Courthouse Rd, Arlington, on August 26, 2024 at 12:00 PM the property described in said deed, located at the above address and briefly described as:

Lot 68-A, Block B, Clarendon, with any improvements thereon

Subject to any and all covenants, conditions, restrictions, easements, and all other matters of record taking priority over the Deed of Trust, if any, affecting the aforesaid property.

TERMS OF SALE: CASH: A deposit of \$20,000.00 or 10% of the sales price, whichever is lower, cash or certified check will be required at the time of sale, but no more than \$10,000.00 of cash will be accepted, with settlement within fifteen (15) days from the date of sale. Sale is subject to post sale confirmation that the borrower did not file for protection under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code prior to the sale which affects the validity of the sale, as well as to post-sale confirmation of the status of the loan with the loan servicer including, but not limited to, determination of whether the borrower entered into any repayment agreement, reinstated or paid off the loan prior to the sale. In any such event, the sale shall be null and void, and the Purchaser's sole remedy, in law or equity, shall be the return of his deposit without interest. Additional terms may be announced at the time of sale. Pursuant to the Federal Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, we advise you that this firm is a debt collector attempting to collect the indebtedness referred to herein and any information we obtain will be used for that purpose.

SAMUEL I. WHITE, P.C., Substitute Trustee

This is a communication from a debt collector.

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

SAMUEL I. WHITE, P.C. (86139) 448 Viking Drive, Suite 350 Virginia Beach, Virginia 23452 757-457-1460 - Call Between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. or visit our website at www.slwpc.net

July 29th, 30th, 31st, 2024 August 1st, and 2nd, 2024

AD#85628

Trustee Sales: Prince William Co.

Trustee's Sale 2786 Wakewater Way, Woodbridge, Virginia 22191 (Parcel ID: 8290-62-9398)

Default having been made in the terms of a certain Deed of Trust dated April 19, 2013, in the original principal amount of \$230,100.00 and recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of the County of Prince William, Virginia in Instrument No. 201304290043318, the undersigned Substitute Trustee will sell at public auction on August 27, 2024, at 1:00 pm in front of the building housing the Prince William County Circuit Court, 9311 Lee Avenue, Manassas, VA 20110, the property designated as Lot 84, Section 8, Port Potomac, as the same appears duly dedicated, platted and recorded as instrument no. 200503010031882, among the land records of Prince William County, Virginia. Sale is subject to all prior liens, easements, restrictions, covenants, and conditions, if any, of record, or other matters which would be disclosed by an accurate survey or inspection of the premises. The property will be sold subject to the right of redemption of the Internal Revenue Service. TERMS: CASH. A deposit of \$23,000.00 or 10% of the sale price, whichever is lower, will be required of the successful bidder at time of sale. Prior to the sale, interested bidders will be required to register with and must present a bid deposit which may be held during the sale by the trustee. The bid deposit must be certified funds and/or cash, but no more than \$9,900.00 of cash will be accepted. The successful bidder's deposit will be retained at the sale and applied to the sale price. If held by the trustee, all other bid deposits will be returned to the unsuccessful bidders. Settlement is to be made within 15 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. 230844-04, Tel: (757) 321-6465, between 10:00 a.m. & 12:00 noon only.

Run Dates: July 30th, 2024 August 6th, 2024

AD#85099

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 15466 THOROUGHFARE RD, GAINESVILLE, VA 20155

In execution of a certain Deed of Trust dated February 3, 2021, in the original principal amount of \$338,279.00 recorded in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court for Prince William County, Virginia as Instrument No. 202102190020851. The undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction in the front of the Circuit Court building for Prince William County, 9311 Lee Avenue, Manassas, Virginia, on August 28, 2024, at 9:45 AM, the property described in said Deed of Trust, located at the above address, and more particularly described as follows: THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED PROPERTY, WITH IMPROVEMENTS THEREON, LOCATED IN THE COUNTY OF PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY, VIRGINIA (THE "PROPERTY"): LOT E-1, GAINESVILLE ACRES, AS THE SAME IS SHOWN ON A PLAT OF RE-SUBDIVISION ATTACHED TO A DEED OF RE-SUBDIVISION RECORDED IN DEED BOOK 1267, AT PAGE 1218, AMONG THE LAND RECORDS OF PRINCE WILLIAM 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 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-355248-2.

July 23, 2024 July 30, 2024

AD#84887

Trustee Sales: Prince William Co.

TRUSTEE'S SALE - Real property at 15802 WENDY COURT DUMFRIES, VA 22025

In execution of a Deed of Trust in the original principal amount of \$20,000.00 dated September 28, 2022 and recorded in the land records of Prince William County, Virginia as Instrument 2022103072869, default having been made in the indebtedness secured thereby, the undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction at the Front Entrance for the Circuit Court for Prince William County, located at 9311 Lee Avenue Manassas, Virginia 20110, the above referenced property and fixtures or improvements thereon briefly described as "Lot 26 in the Subdivision of Country Club Lake" on

August 13, 2024 AT 10:00 am

TERMS OF SALE: The property is being sold subject to a senior Deed of Trust recorded on March 8, 2005 as Instrument # 200503080036219 in the amount of \$257,000.00 and any senior judgments or liens of record. The property will be sold "AS IS," WITHOUT REPRESENTATION OR WARRANTY OF ANY KIND AND SUBJECT TO any environmental or other conditions, covenants, restrictions, reservations, easements, rights of way, prior liens, and all other matters of record taking priority over the Deed of Trust, if any. Substitute Trustee shall have no obligation to deliver possession of the property or any other obligation as to the premises.

A bidder's deposit of \$5,000.00 or 10% of the sale price, whichever is lower, will be required at the time of sale in the form of a certified check or cashier's check from the purchaser or the bid will be rejected. Successful bidder will be required to sign a memorandum of sale at the time of the sale and settle by remitting the balance of the purchase price within fourteen (14) days of sale. If the buyer wishes to use their own settlement company and documentation, there will be a fee of \$300.00 for review of their settlement documents. In the event of default by the successful bidder, the entire deposit shall be forfeited and applied to the costs and expenses of sale and Substitute Trustee's fee according to the Code of Virginia.

All other public charges or assessments, including water/sewer charges to be prorated through date of sale; those incurred after the sale date, and all other costs incident to settlement to be paid by the purchaser. In the event taxes, any other public charges have been advanced, a credit will be due to the seller, to be adjusted from the date of sale at the time of settlement. Sale is subject to post sale confirmation that the borrower did not file for protection under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code prior to the sale as well as to post-sale confirmation of the status of the loan with the loan servicer including, but not limited to, determination of whether the borrower entered into any repayment agreement, reinstated or paid off the loan prior to the sale or whether other legal impediment to title exists. In any such event, the sale shall be null and void, and the Purchaser's sole remedy, in law or equity, shall be the return of the deposit without interest. Additional terms may be announced at the time of sale.

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Cohn Goldberg Deutch, 410-296-2550 or www.cgd-law.com re: CGD #466095. Cohn Goldberg Deutch is a debt collector; any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

BLUE RIDGE TRUSTEES LLC

Run Dates: July 16, July 23, July 30, August 6 Ad#84833

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 14425 VILLAGE DRIVE, WOODBRIDGE, VA 22191

In execution of a certain Deed of Trust dated July 22, 2005, in the original principal amount of \$111,000.00 recorded in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court for Prince William County, Virginia as Instrument No. 200507270126463. The undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction in the front of the Circuit Court building for Prince William County, 9311 Lee Avenue, Manassas, Virginia, on September 4, 2024, at 9:45 AM, the property described in said Deed of Trust, located at the above address, and more particularly described as follows: LOT 44, SECTION 2, VILLAGE SQUARE, AS THE SAME APPEARS DULY DEDICATED PLATTED AND RECORDED IN DEED BOOK 390 AT PAGE 246, AMONG THE LAND RECORDS OF PRINCE WILLIAM 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 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-350806-2.

July 30, 2024 August 6, 2024

AD#84999

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 8113 MORNINGSIDE DR, MANASSAS, VA 20112

In execution of a certain Deed of Trust dated February 20, 2007, in the original principal amount of \$329,500.00 recorded in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court for Prince William County, Virginia as Instrument No. 200703050027010. The undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction in the front of the Circuit Court building for Prince William County, 9311 Lee Avenue, Manassas, Virginia, on September 4, 2024, at 9:45 AM, the property described in said Deed of Trust, located at the above address, and more particularly described as follows: THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED REAL ESTATE SITUATE IN PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY, VIRGINIA, AND MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: LOT 7-B, BROOKHAVEN, AS THE SAME IS SHOWN ON PLAT ATTACHED TO DEED OF VACATION, RESUBDIVISION AND REDEDICATION RECORDED IN DEED BOOK 1110, AT PAGE 227, AMONG THE LAND RECORDS OF PRINCE WILLIAM 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 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-370209-1.

July 30, 2024 August 6, 2024

AD#85061

Trustee Sales: Prince William Co.

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 8527 PINEY PT CT, MANASSAS, VA 20110

In execution of a Deed of Trust in the original principal amount of \$260,000.00, with an annual interest rate of 5.375000% dated July 8, 2005, recorded among the land records of the Circuit Court for the County of Prince William as Deed Instrument Number 200507130116416, the undersigned appointed Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction all that property located in the County of Prince William, on the Court House steps in front of Main Entrance for the Circuit Court building for the County of Prince William located at 9311 Lee Avenue, Manassas, Virginia on September 3, 2024 at 1:00 PM, the property with improvements to wit:

LOT 606 SEC 3 POINT OF WOODS TH

Tax Map No. 33456

THIS COMMUNICATION IS FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

TERMS OF SALE: ALL CASH. A bidder's deposit of 10% of the sale price, will be required in cash, certified or cashier's check. Settlement within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Trustees may forfeit deposit. Additional terms to be announced at sale. Loan type: Conventional. Reference Number 24-295991.

PROFESSIONAL FORECLOSURE CORPORATION OF VIRGINIA, Substitute Trustees, C/O LOGS LEGAL GROUP LLP, 10021 Balls Ford Road, Suite 200, Manassas, Virginia 20109 (703) 449-5800.

Run Dates: June 27th, 2024 July 30th, 2024 August 6th, 2024

AD#84963

Trustee's Sale 14619 Aurora Drive, Woodbridge, Virginia 22193 (Parcel ID: 8291-45-4596)

Default having been made in the terms of a certain Deed of Trust dated March 30, 2020, in the original principal amount of \$381,954.00 and recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of the County of Prince William, Virginia in Instrument No. 202003120019914, the undersigned Substitute Trustee will sell at public auction on August 20, 2024, at 01:00 PM in front of the building housing the Prince William County Circuit Court, 9311 Lee Avenue, Manassas, VA 20110, the property designated as Lot 744 Section 1 Dale City as the same appears duly dedicated plat and recorded in deed book 347 at page 258 among the land records of Prince William County Virginia. Sale is subject to all prior liens, easements, restrictions, covenants, and conditions, if any, of record, or other matters which would be disclosed by an accurate survey or inspection of the premises. TERMS: CASH. A deposit of \$38,000.00 or 10% of the sale price, whichever is lower, will be required of the successful bidder at time of sale. Prior to the sale, interested bidders will be required to register with and must present a bid deposit which may be held during the sale by the trustee. The bid deposit must be certified funds and/or cash, but no more than \$9,900.00 of cash will be accepted. The successful bidder's deposit will be retained at the sale and applied to the sale price. If held by the trustee, all other bid deposits will be returned to the unsuccessful bidders. Settlement is to be made within 15 calendar days. The successful bidder will be responsible for obtaining possession of the property, and for all costs and fees related to recording the Trustee's Deed, including the grantors tax. The successful bidder will be required to execute a Memorandum of 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. 232921-01, Tel: (757) 321-6465, between 10:00 a.m. & 12:00 noon only.

Run Dates: July 23rd, 2024 July 30th, 2024

AD#84810

Trustee Sales: Virginia

Trustee's Sale 2057 Farragut Drive, Stafford, VA 22554 (Parcel ID: 21-B-1959)

Default having been made in the terms of a certain Deed of Trust dated 04/22/2005, in the original principal amount of \$292,000.00 and recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of the Stafford County, Virginia on 04/27/2005, as Instrument No. LR050014875, in Book ---, Page ---, the undersigned Substitute Trustees will sell at public auction on 09/03/2024 at 09:30 AM, Stafford Circuit Court, located at the front of the courthouse, 1300 Courthouse Road, Stafford, VA 22555, the property designated as:

Lot Number 1959, on a plat of Section 6, AQUIA HARBOUR SUBDIVISION, recorded in the Clerk's office of the Circuit Court of Stafford County, Virginia in Plat Book 5 at Page 11.

TERMS: CASH. A deposit of \$29,200.00 or 10% of the sale price, whichever is lower, will be required of the successful bidder at time of sale. Prior to the sale, interested bidders will be required to register with and must present a bid deposit which may be held during the sale by the trustee. The bid deposit must be certified funds and/or cash, but no more than \$9,900.00 of cash will be accepted. The successful bidder's deposit will be retained at the sale and applied to the sale price. If held by the trustee, all other bid deposits will be returned to the unsuccessful bidders. Settlement is to be made within 15 days. The successful bidder will be responsible for obtaining possession of the property, and for all costs and fees related to recording the Trustee's Deed, including the grantors tax. The successful bidder will be required to execute a Memorandum of Trustee's Sale, available for review upon request before the sale, outlining additional terms of sale and settlement. A Trustee's Deed will be prepared by Trustee's attorney at high bidder's expense.

For More Information Contact:

Western Progressive - Virginia, Inc Regus Arlington Ballston, 4250 N Fairfax Drive, Suite 600 Office Number 675 Arlington VA 22203 Telephone #: 866-960-8299 Fax #: 866-960-8298 Email: TrusteeQuote@altisource.com

Run Dates: July 30th, 2024 August 6th, 2024

AD#84910

Trustee Sales: Virginia

TRUSTEE'S SALE 7211 LAKEWOOD LN SPOTSYLVANIA, VA 22551

In execution of the Deed of Trust in the original principal amount of \$177,721.00, dated September 30, 2016, and recorded as Instrument Number 160017074 in Spotsylvania County land records, the appointed Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction in the front of the Circuit Court building for Spotsylvania County, 9107 Judicial Center Lane, Spotsylvania, Virginia 22553-0096 on August 29, 2024 at 2:15 PM, the property described in said deed of trust, located at the above address and more particularly described as follows:

ALL THAT CERTAIN LOT OR PARCEL OF LAND, WITH IMPROVEMENTS THEREON AND APPURTENANCES THERETO LYING, BEING AND SITUATE IN LIVINGSTON MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT, SPOTSYLVANIA COUNTY, VIRGINIA KNOWN AS LOT 13, LAKEWOOD ESTATES, AS SHOWN ON PLAT OF CORBIN SURVEYS, INC., DATED JUNE 10, 1975, AND RECORDED IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE, CIRCUIT COURT, SPOTSYLVANIA COUNTY, VIRGINIA, IN DEED BOOK 370, PAGE 506.

TAX ID: 56-1-13

TOGETHER WITH THAT CERTAIN MOBLE HOME: MAKE MODEL YEAR 2003, I.D. #S:BR03NC140286B/A. PERMANETLY AFFIXED

The property and improvements will be sold in "as is" physical condition without warranty of any kind.

TERMS OF SALE: A non-refundable bidder's deposit of 10% of the sale price or 10% of the original principal amount of the subject Deed of Trust, whichever is lower, by cashier's or certified check required at time of sale except for the party secured by the Deed of Trust. Risk of loss on purchaser from date and time of auction. Balance of the purchase price must be paid by cashier's check within 15 days from sale date. Except for Virginia Grantor tax, all settlement costs and expenses are purchaser's responsibility. Taxes are pro-rated to the date of sale. Purchaser is responsible for obtaining possession of the property. If purchaser defaults, deposit may be forfeited and property resold at the risk and cost of the defaulting purchaser who shall be liable for any deficiency in the purchase price and all costs, expenses and attorney's fees of both sales. If Trustee does not convey title for any reason, purchaser's sole remedy is return of deposit without interest. This sale is subject to post-sale audit of the status of the loan secured by the Deed of Trust including but not limited to determining whether prior to a bankruptcy was filed, a forbearance, repayment or other agreement was entered into or the loan was reinstated or paid off; in any such event this sale shall be null and void and purchaser's sole remedy shall be return of deposit without interest. This communication is from a debt collector and is an attempt to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE: RAS Trustee Services, LLC, 4012 Raintree Road, Suite 100A, Chesapeake, Virginia 23321

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

RAS Trustee Services, LLC, Substitute Trustee c/o Robertson, Anschutz, Schneid, Crane & Partners, PLLC

11350 McCormick Road, Executive Plaza 1, Suite 302 Hunt Valley, Maryland 21031 (844) 442-2150 (470) 321-7112

July 23rd, 2024 July 30th, 2024

AD#85028

TRUSTEE'S SALE 903 BELLOWS AVE FREDERICKSBURG, VA 22405

In execution of the Deed of Trust in the original principal amount of \$125,000.00, dated January 9, 2006, and recorded as Instrument Number LR06001773 in Stafford County land records, the appointed Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction on the courthouse steps of the Circuit Court building for the County of Stafford located at 1300 Courthouse Road, Stafford, Virginia 22555-0069 on August 29, 2024 at 4:15 pm, the property described in said deed of trust, located at the above address and more particularly described as follows:

ALL THAT CERTAIN PARCEL OF LAND TOGETHER WITH ALL IMPROVEMENTS THEREON AND RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES THERETO APPURTENANT, SITUATE, LYING AND BEING IN HARTWOOD DISTRICT, ST

Trustee Sales: Virginia

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 11400 TOWERING OAK WAY, RESTON, VA 20194. In execution of a certain Deed of Trust dated August 25, 2004, in the original principal amount of \$501,500.00 recorded in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court for Fairfax County, Virginia, in Book 16455 at Page 1801 as Instrument No. 2004034792.005. The undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction in the front of the Circuit Court building for Fairfax County, 4110 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax, VA, on August 28, 2024, at 11:45 AM, the property described in said Deed of Trust, located at the above address, and more particularly described as follows: LOT THIRTY-NINE (39), BLOCK TWO (2), SECTION SEVENTY FIVE (75), RESTON, AS THE SAME IS DULY DEDICATED, PLATTED AND RECORDED IN DEED BOOK 8254, AT PAGE 477, AMONG THE LAND RECORDS OF FAIRFAX 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 Mortgagor, 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-193215-4.

July 23, 2024
July 30, 2024

AD#84761

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 42887 EDGE GROVE HEIGHTS TERRACE, ASHBURN, VA 20148. In execution of a certain Deed of Trust dated April 29, 2015, in the original principal amount of \$485,397.00 recorded in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court for Loudoun County, Virginia as Instrument No. 20150429-0026757. The undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction in the front of the Circuit Court building for Loudoun County, 18 E. Market Street, Leesburg, Virginia, on September 4, 2024, at 2:00 PM, the property described in said Deed of Trust, located at the above address, and more particularly described as follows: LOT 5094, SECTION 11, LANDBAY 5, LOUDOUN VALLEY ESTATES II, AS THE SAME APPEARS DULY DEDICATED AND RECORDED AS INSTRUMENT NUMBER 201403040010440, WITH PLAT RECORDED AS INSTRUMENT NUMBER 201403040010441, AMONG THE LAND RECORDS OF LOUDOUN 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 Mortgagor, 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-310412-4.

July 30, 2024
August 6, 2024

AD#85078

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 47565 ROYAL BURNHAM TER, STERLING, VA 20165. In execution of a certain Deed of Trust dated September 29, 2006, in the original principal amount of \$413,500.00 recorded in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court for Loudoun County, Virginia as Instrument No. 20061003-0084492. The undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction in the front of the Circuit Court building for Loudoun County, 18 E. Market Street, Leesburg, Virginia, on September 4, 2024, at 2:00 PM, the property described in said Deed of Trust, located at the above address, and more particularly described as follows: LOT 120, SECTION 20A, CASCADES, AS THE SAME APPEARS DULY DEDICATED, PLATTED AND RECORDED AT INSTRUMENT NO. 200507130075367, (PLAT AT INSTRUMENT NO. 200507130075368), AMONG THE LAND RECORDS OF LOUDOUN 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 Mortgagor, 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-333463-3.

July 30th, 2024
August 6th, 2024

AD#85131

Trustee Sales: Virginia

TRUSTEE'S SALE 20 Bridgeport Circle, Stafford, VA 22554
THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.
In execution of the Deed of Trust in the original principal amount of \$510,570.00 dated June 16, 2022 and recorded as Instrument No. 220013085, of the Stafford County land records, the appointed Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction on the courthouse steps of the Circuit Court building for the County of Stafford located at, 1300 Courthouse Rd, Stafford, Virginia 22554 on August 13, 2024 at 12:30 PM, the property described in said deed of trust, located at the above address and more particularly described as follows:
Lot 96, Section 3, HAMPTON OAKS, as the same appears duly dedicated, platted and recorded in Deed Book 737, at Page 124, and in Plat Book 20, Page 121, among the Land Records of Stafford County, Virginia.
Parcel Identification Number: 20P-3-96
The property and improvements will be sold in "as is" physical condition without warranty of any kind.

TERMS OF SALE: A non-refundable bidder's deposit of 10% of the sale price or 10% of the original principal amount of the subject Deed of Trust, whichever is lower, by cashier's or certified check, required at time of sale except for the party secured by the Deed of Trust. Risk of loss on purchaser from date and time of auction. Balance of the purchase price must be paid by cashier's check within 15 days from sale date. Except for Virginia Grantor's tax, all settlement costs and expenses are purchaser's responsibility. Taxes are pro-rated to the date of sale. Purchaser is responsible for obtaining possession of the property. If purchaser defaults, deposit may be forfeited and property resold at the risk and cost of the defaulting purchaser who shall be liable for any deficiency in the purchase price and all costs, expenses and attorney's fees of both sales. If Trustee does not convey title for any reason, purchaser's sole remedy is return of deposit without interest. This sale is subject to post-sale audit by the Substitute Trustee of the conduct of the auction itself as well as the status of the loan secured by the Deed of Trust, including, but not limited to, determining whether prior to sale a bankruptcy was filed, a forbearance, repayment or other agreement was entered into or the loan was reinstated or paid off; in any such event this sale shall be null and void and purchaser's sole remedy shall be return of deposit without interest. This communication is from a debt collector and is an attempt to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE: Lenox Title Trustee Services, LLC, c/o McMichael Taylor Gray, LLC, 3550 Engineering Drive, Suite 260, Peachtree Corners, GA 30092

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:
Lenox Title Trustee Services, LLC, Substitute Trustee
c/o Adrian G. Jacobs, Esq.
McMichael Taylor Gray, LLC
3550 Engineering Drive, Suite 260
Peachtree Corners, GA 30092
Phone: 404.474.7149
Fax: 404.745.8121
MTG File No.: VA2024-00155

Run Dates: July 23rd, 2024
July 30th, 2024

AD#84706

Estate Alexandria

IN THE OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF ACCOUNTS CIRCUIT COURT OF THE CITY OF ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

IN RE: ESTATE OF AUDREY MAY KIRBY FIDUCIARY NO. 22001035

NOTICE

Pursuant to provisions of Virginia Code §64-2-550, notice is hereby given that the undersigned Commissioner of Accounts has, at the request of Rachel Davis, Esquire, attorney for the personal representative of the Estate of Audrey May Kirby, appointed September 4, 2024, at 10:00 a.m., at his office at 520 King Street, Room 306, Alexandria, Virginia, as the place for receiving proof of debts and demands against the aforesaid decedent and/or his/her estate. Given under my hand as Commissioner of Accounts this 24th day of July, 2024.

/s/ Gary W. Lonergan
Gary W. Lonergan
Commissioner of Accounts
Circuit Court
Alexandria, Virginia

July 30th, 2024
AD#85767

Estate Alexandria

NOTICE OF INTENDED TRANSFER

State Department Federal Credit Union hereby gives notice that it will transfer \$36,388.63 from the account of Lambert Heyniger 30 days after last publication of this notice.

The funds will be transferred to Nicholas Heyniger, Executor of the estate. The decedent died while domiciled in New Hampshire. Written claim to said funds should be sent to SDFCU, 1630 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314. Attn: William Parker.

Publication dates: 7-23-2024, 7-30-2024, 8-6-2024, 8-13-2024
AD#85633



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Estate Prince William Co.

COMMISSIONER OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE THIRTY-FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT COUNTY OF PRINCE WILLIAM, CITIES OF MANASSAS AND MANASSAS PARK
IN THE OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF ACCOUNTS THIRTY-FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT OF VIRGINIA

RE: Estate of OWENS, Malcolm Devonshire Sonja, Deceased

NOTICE OF DEBTS AND DEMANDS HEARING

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 64.2-550 of the Code of Virginia, 1950, notice is hereby given that the undersigned Commissioner of Accounts, at the request of Akeisha Nichole Owens, Administrator, has appointed August 29, 2024 at 2:30 PM, at his office at 7915 Lake Manassas Drive, Suite 303, Gainesville, VA 20155, as the time and place for receiving proof of debts and demands against the aforesaid decedent and/or his/her estate.

GIVEN UNDER my hand as Commissioner of Accounts this 24th day of July, 2024.

Timothy A. Cope
Commissioner of Accounts

Advised: July 30th, 2024 AD#85760

Auctions: DC

STORAGE TREASURES AUCTION

Extra Space Storage will hold a public auction at the location indicated:

72 Florida Ave NE Washington DC, 20002 August 6th, 2024 at 2:30pm.

Units: 6132, 7104, 8067 and 8324.

The auction will be listed and advertised on www.storage-treasures.com. Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the above referenced facility in order to complete the transaction. Extra Space Storage may refuse any bid and may rescind any purchase up until the winning bidder takes possession of the personal property.

July 30, 2024 Ad#85684

STORAGE TREASURES AUCTION

Life Storage will hold a public auction at the location indicated:

2000 Bladensburg RD NE Washington, DC 20018 August 6, 2024 at 1:30pm

0065,0095,0143,101, 2218,3060,3236, 4009 & 4612

The auction will be listed and advertised on www.storage-treasures.com. Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the above referenced facility in order to complete the transaction. Extra Space Storage may refuse any bid and may rescind any purchase up until the winning bidder takes possession of the personal property.

July 30, 2024 Ad#85748

Extra Space Storage will hold a public auction at the location indicated:

1240 Mt. Olivet RD NE, Washington, DC 20002 202.768.9995 on 08/06/2024 at 12:00 PM.

Unit Number(s): 3019, 5100 and 6166

The auction will be listed and advertised on www.storage-treasures.com. Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the above referenced facility in order to complete the transaction. Extra Space Storage may refuse any bid and may rescind any purchase up until the winning bidder takes possession of the personal property.

July 30, 2024 Ad#85496

Extra Space Storage will hold a public auction at the location indicated:

6011 Blair Rd. NW Washington DC, 20011, (202) 748-6044 on August 6th, 2024 at 10:30 am.

Unit Number(s)# 1013, 2008, 2046, 2112, 3176, 6002, 6064, 7009, 7040, 7076A, 7104

The auction will be listed and advertised on www.storage-treasures.com. Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the above referenced facility in order to complete the transaction. Extra Space Storage may refuse any bid and may rescind any purchase up until the winning bidder takes possession of the personal property.

July 30, 2024 Ad#85498

Extra Space Storage, on behalf of itself or its affiliates, Life Storage or Storage Express, will hold a public auction at the location indicated:

1420 U St NW, Washington, DC, 20009, 08/06/2024 11:30AM

170k,3037,6118,7134

The auction will be listed and advertised on www.storage-treasures.com. Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the above referenced facility in order to complete the transaction. Extra Space Storage may refuse any bid and may rescind any purchase up until the winning bidder takes possession of the personal property.

July 30, 2024 Ad#85710

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE: Self-Storage Unit contents will be sold for cash by Self Storage Plus -New York Ave to satisfy a lien for rental on August 8th, 2024 at approximately 1:00 PM at www.storage-treasures.com for the following location: 301 New York Ave NE, Washington DC 20002.

Run Date: July 30th, 2024 AD#85752

Extra Space Storage will hold a public auction at the location indicated: **2800 8th St NE Washington DC 20017, (202) 302-5359 on August 06, 2024 at 2:00pm.** Unit Numbers 4021,4035,4122,3060,5250 and 4091 The auction will be listed and advertised on www.storage-treasures.com. Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the above referenced facility in order to complete the transaction. Extra Space Storage may refuse any bid and may rescind any purchase up until the winning bidder takes possession of the personal property.

July 30, 2024 Ad#85782

Auctions: Maryland

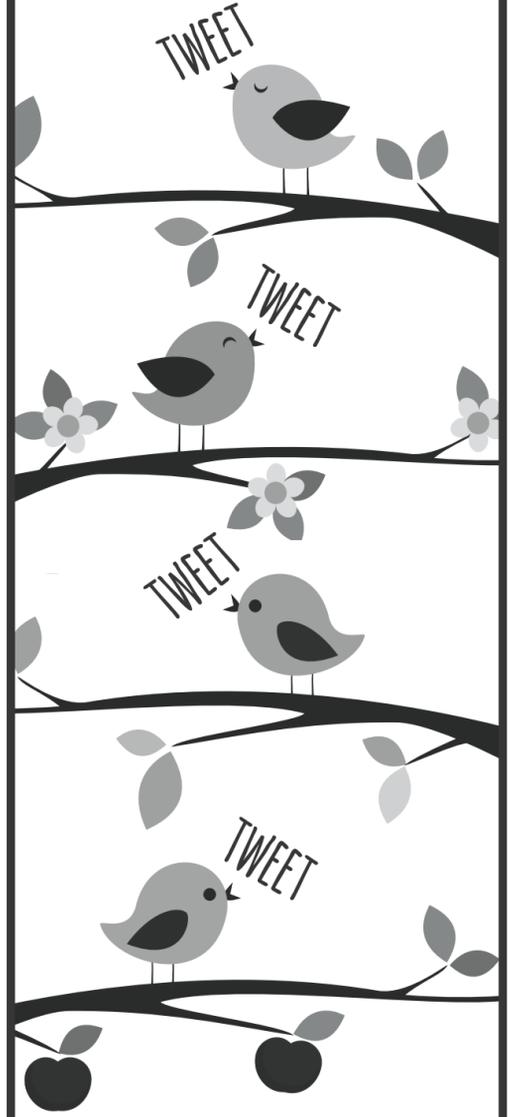
NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE: Self-storage cubes contents will be sold for cash, credit and debit by CubeSmart Asset Management, LLC as agent for the Owner of CubeSmart to satisfy a lien for rental on August 13, 2024, at approximately 3pm at www.storage-treasures.com.

The contents of approximately 20+ units will be sold.

Locations:
Store #6522-100 Storage Way, Frederick, MD 21701
Store #5748-811 East South Street, Frederick, MD 21701
Store #571-8001 Snouffer School Rd. Gaithersburg, MD 20879
Store #584-300 Old Game Preserve Rd., Gaithersburg, MD 20879

July 30, 2024 Ad#84592

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

JANRIC CLASSIC SUDOKU

Rating: Silver

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:

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

JUMBLE/David L. Hoyt & Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these words. Use letters to check answers. You have 10 minutes.

NAXNE
○○○○

TURET
○○○○

TBGOEL
○○○○

SIMITF
○○○○

Answers: NAXNE (NAXES), TURET (TURTLE), TBGOEL (BOLT), SIMITF (FIT)

RUBES/Leigh Rubin

DAD!

Mr. Clean's less-than-spotless past catches up with him.

IN THE BLEACHERS/Steve Moore

"We have been observing your species for one hundred years. We give up. Explain the infield fly rule."

MONDAY CROSSWORD

Go Fish

60 Miss away
61 Oboe orders
62 Interface message
63 for (rhyming)
64 Bids' sweet homes
67 Amused
68 Make over
69 Lake near Reno

9 Invited on a date
10 Browse websites
11 Blacken on a grill
12 Scoop
13 "My country, 'tis of thee"
18 Swirling current
23 X in Roman numerals
25 Decide not to punish
26 Cheese in American cheese
28 "Let's get going!"
30 Rotation prefix
31 Portion
32 "It all falls..."
33 Photographed
34 Julius Caesar's line
35 Gets contented
37 Manchester target
40 Person telling a story
44 Start or admit
46 Hit on TV
48 Deep cut
50 Get married in secret
52 From the Emerald Isle
53 Domingo, Dominican Republic
54 This, that, and this
55 Tibetan priest
56 Several
57 Gentle, as a horse
58 "You never had ___ good!"
62 Approximate takeoff hr.
63 Grassy field

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13
14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32
33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54
55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70

B.C./Mastroianni & Hart

I REALLY DON'T LIKE THAT THEY MIXED THESE TWO...

READY?

CLIMBING AND RAMPOLINE TODAY

LOLA/Todd Clark

MAX, THESE ARE THE COBBLER ELVES. THEY MAKE EDIBLE SHOES.

I LOVE A GOOD SHOE.

DO YOU MAKE A SNICKERDOODLE SNEAKER?

BOUND & GAGGED/Dana Summers

LET'S HAVE A MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR THIS MEATLOAF.

ADAM @ HOME/Rob Harrell

I AM THE KING OF COFFEE! LOOK AT MY COFFEE-INFUSED DIAMOND!

LOOK AT MY COFFEE MANSION AND ALL THAT I HAVE...

BIUIT?

DANG IT. WERE YOU WATCHING "NARCOS" BEFORE BED AGAIN?

THE BUCKETS/Greg Cravens

DAD BURST IN AND YELLED, "I'M SICK OF THAT PITCHOLE! WHERE'S THE HALLOWEEN DECORATIONS?"

NICELY CREATIVE.

ROSE IS ROSE/Pat Brady & Don Wimmer

TWEET CHIRP

CHIRP CHIRP

CHIRP

CAN I AT LEAST FINISH MY LUNCH?

DOGS OF C-KENNEL/Mick & Mason Mastroianni

THESE GUYS HAVE BEEN WORKING FROM HOME TOO LONG.

SWEEP SWEEP

HERB & JAMAAL/Stephen Bentley

WHenever I find myself in trouble with my wife...

IT'S USUALLY CAUSE OF SOMETHING I DID, SOMETHING I DIDN'T DO...

OR SOMETHING I SHOULD OR SHOULDN'T HAVE DONE.

I JUST HAVE TO FIGURE OUT WHICH ONE.

CARPE DIEM/Niklas Eriksson

WE MAY SPEND A FORTUNE ON HAIRSPRAY, BUT I THINK OUR NEW HAIRSTYLES DEFINITELY SET THE RIGHT ATTITUDE.

WIND POWER INC.

BROOM-HILDA/Russell Myers

THAT CAT IS COUGHING UP A HAIRBALL!

AAK AAK

HAIRBALL? MEATBALL. SHE EATS TOO FAST!

DICK TRACY/Shelley Pleger & Mike Curtis

A FEW DAYS LATER.

THANK YOU, DETECTIVE. NOW I KNOW WHAT REALLY HAPPENED TO DAD.

YOU'RE RIGHT, BUT YOUR TEAM PUT THAT BLACKWALKER OUT OF BUSINESS.

POOCH CAFE/Paul Gilligan

CRACK!

SMASH!

KRASH!

HEY, GUYS!

YOU GOTTA LAY OFF THOSE TAIL-WAGGING ENHANCERS, PUPE.

STRANGE BREW/John Deering

THIS IS SO EMBARRASSING. TREAT UP THERE! RECORDING WHALE SONGS AND THE WHOLE BUNCH HAVING THE LYRICS!

BOTTOM LINERS/Eric & Bill Teitelbaum

Doc, I follow a healthy diet based on the four main food groups: Wendy's, Del Taco, Carl's Jr., and Burger King.

THE FLYING McCOYS/Glenn & Gary McCoy

LONG, SO ALL OF US GOING TO THE CHEF AT THE SAME TIME TO DEMAND NO CARH GET A SOUND CAR WAS A BAD IDEA.

PARDON MY PLANET/Vic Lee

LEAVE THIS DUNGEON! LIVE IN THE ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES OF THE GREAT OUTDOORS. GORISPEED!

FREE WEIGHTS

BLISS/Harry Bliss

UNBELIEVABLE... SEPARATE NESTS AND STILL I HEAR HIS BIRD SINGING

Djokovic beats rival Nadal in 60th and likely last head-to-head meeting

By **HOWARD FENDRICH**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PARIS | Novak Djokovic, who won, and Rafael Nadal, who lost, met at the net and hugged after playing at the Paris Olympics in the 60th — and quite possibly last — installment of a record-breaking and often riveting rivalry between two tennis greats who share a mutual respect if not a close friendship.

This 6-1, 6-4 victory for Djokovic came in only the second round of the Summer Games — instead of a Grand Slam final, like nine previous head-to-head encounters — and it was not the most scintillating contest, either, other than for a 20-minute interlude in the second set, when Nadal's final push made things briefly competitive after he ceded 10 of the initial 11 games.

Afterward, neither Nadal, who is 38, nor Djokovic, 37, was willing to concede they won't play each other again, even if that seems likely. Nadal certainly seems as if he could be close to retirement; he's had two injury-filled seasons, needed hip surgery a little more than a year ago, and spoke in 2023 about 2024 being his farewell.

But he's not done at these Olympics, pairing with Carlos Alcaraz in doubles for Spain, and said Monday he's a bit tired of getting asked every day about his future.

"I cannot live every single day with the feeling that it's going to be, or not going to be, my last match. I come here, I try my best, I play. And when I decide to stop playing, or when I decide to keep going, I will let you know. I don't know," Nadal said. "If I feel that I am not competitive enough to keep going or physically I am not ... ready to keep going, I will stop, and I will let you know."

What was clear for the first 1 1/2 hours against Djokovic is that Nadal was diminished, nowhere near the skilled and ever-hustling version of himself that won a record 14 French Open trophies on the same red clay at Roland Garros that is hosting Summer Games matches.

He acknowledged as much after leaving Court Philippe Chatrier, where fans repeatedly tried to encourage him with chants of "Ra-fa! Ra-fa!"

"Playing against Novak without creating damage to him, and without having



Novak Djokovic points upward as he leaves the court after beating rival Rafael Nadal, 6-1, 6-4, in their Summer Olympics men's singles second round match Monday.

the legs of 20 years ago, is almost impossible," said Nadal, whose right thigh has been taped up for all of his matches in Paris.

Djokovic was asked whether this might mark the end of head-to-head competition between the pair.

"Of course it can be, but we don't know that. It really depends on many different factors," the Serbian said. "I just hope for the sake of our rivalry, and the sport, in general, that we'll get to face each other once, maybe a few times, on different surfaces, in different parts of the world, because I feel like it can only benefit the sport. But I don't know how he feels in his body, what his plans are."

Djokovic owns 24 Grand Slam titles, and Nadal 22, the two highest men's totals in the century-plus history of the sport. Both have been ranked No. 1, and no pair of men has played each other more often in the professional era. They are two-thirds of the so-called Big Three of men's tennis, along with Roger Federer, who retired with 20 Slam titles, a cohort that enjoyed unprecedented success and prompted endless debates about which is the "GOAT" — "Greatest of All Time."

But Nadal, a gold medalist in singles and doubles at past Olympics, and Djokovic, who says adding a gold to his

otherwise glittering resume is a priority, are accustomed to meeting — and fans are accustomed to watching them — in the latter stages of events. It happened much earlier this time because while Djokovic is the top seed at the Olympics, Nadal's ranking is outside the top 150 on account of a lack of matches.

The place was packed, from the press seats where there was jostling for space, to the highest spots in the upper deck, for what felt like a historic occasion. Rapper Snoop Dogg sat beside tennis icon Billie Jean King; Vogue editor Anna Wintour was with film director Baz Luhrmann.

"You could feel the tension coming into the match, but also incredible hype, incredible atmosphere," Djokovic said. "There was a lot of interest for this match. People wanted to see it live. People wanted to see it on the TV, as well. I was just very proud to be part of this match."

After a ho-hum stretch, the indefatigable Nadal finally got going, transforming it into something competitive, which surely no one — least of all Djokovic — found too surprising.

"If you give him time, he can hurt you. We know that. I've experienced that in the past," Djokovic said. "I started to hesitate a little on my shot. He stepped in. The crowd got involved."

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

U.S. beats Japan to open bid for eighth straight gold medal

VILLENEUVE-D'ASCQ, FRANCE | A'ja Wilson scored 24 points and Breanna Stewart added 22 to help the U.S. beat Japan 102-76 on Monday night in the Olympic opener for both teams.

The Americans now have a 56-game Olympic winning streak that dates to the 1992 Barcelona Games.

The last of those victories before Monday also came against Japan when the two teams played for the gold medal in the Tokyo Games three years ago. Now Monday's victory tipped off the run to keep that streak going.

Japan, which was severely undersized against the U.S., used its frenetic style of shooting 3s off drives to the basket to try and keep the game close.

It worked for about 17 minutes as Japan only trailed 37-32 with 3:01 left before the half. The U.S. then scored 13 of the final 19 points before break, including a three-point play by Wilson with 8.2 seconds left to open up a double-digit lead.

WOMEN'S FENCING

U.S. saber fencers lose Olympic bouts overshadowed by probe

PARIS | All three U.S. women's saber fencers lost their opening bouts at the Paris Olympics on Monday under the cloud of an investigation that examined possible match-fixing in qualifying for the Games.

Bethesda native Tatiana Nazlymov was competing a month after she testified in a 13-hour arbitration hearing in which two other American fencers, including the team's Olympic alternate Maia Chamberlain, challenged her place on the Paris roster. Nazlymov, as well as her teammates Magda Skar-bonkiewicz and Elizabeth Tartakovsky, all lost their round-of-32 bouts in the individual saber. They compete again in the team event Saturday.

USA Fencing CEO Phil Andrews had cited "emotional strain" as a concern before the competition, but it wasn't immediately clear if the investigation had any impact on the three U.S. fencers' performances Monday.

Nazlymov, who lost 15-14 to South

Korean Choi Sebin, declined to comment to The Associated Press on her bout as she left the venue.

Two complaints were filed in an arbitration procedure known as Section 9 ahead of the Olympics by fencers disputing whether Nazlymov and men's saber fencer Mitchell Saron should have been included on the U.S. team for Paris.

WATER POLO

U.S. women's team handed a rare loss by Spain

SAINT-DENIS, FRANCE | The U.S. women's water polo team was handed a rare loss at the Paris Olympics on Monday, falling 13-11 to Beate Ortiz and Spain in a rematch of the final at the Tokyo Games.

The U.S. is going for its fourth consecutive gold medal. No team — men or women — has won four straight water polo titles at the Olympics.

It was the program's second loss at the Olympics since it dropped the 2008 final. It went 5-0-1 in London, 6-0 in Rio de Janeiro and 6-1 in Tokyo.

SWIMMING

Americans grabbed plenty of hardware, but no gold

NANTERRE, FRANCE | American swimmers added plenty to the U.S. medal count Monday night, just not the ones they most wanted.

Katie Grimes and Emma Weyant stood side by side on the Paris podium. Ryan Murphy picked up the seventh medal of his illustrious career. And Luke Hobson earned his first in a stirring race. But none of them were gold.

In a way, it felt like a changing of the guard, especially when Murphy could only manage a bronze and long-time breaststroke stalwart Lilly King was edged out of a medal by a mere hundredth of a second.

Grimes and Weyant could celebrate knowing nobody was going to catch 17-year-old Canadian Summer McIntosh in her dominant 400-meter individual medley victory.

McIntosh touched in 4 minutes, 27.71 seconds to capture Olympic gold in commanding fashion. Grimes finished second in 4:33.40 for silver and Weyant earned bronze with a 4:33.93.

Former world record-holder Murphy won his bronze in the 100 backstroke, while Hobson earned one of his own in the 200 freestyle.

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MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

Cardinals add starter in a three-team, seven-player trade

The St. Louis Cardinals added starting pitcher Erick Fedde and the Kansas City Royals acquired veteran right-hander Michael Lorenzen as playoff

contenders made deals Monday, the day before MLB's trade deadline.

Fedde and outfielder Tommy Pham went from the lowly White

Sox to the Cardinals as part of a three-team deal involving seven players. Chicago also sent hard-throwing reliever Michael Kopech to the NL West-leading Dodgers.

Los Angeles also acquired utilityman Tommy Edman from the Cardinals, and the Dodgers sent infield prospects Miguel Vargas, Alexander Albertus and Jeral Perez to Chicago.

Reigning World Series champion Texas, which went into Monday four games under .500 and in third place in the AL West, traded Lorenzen to the Royals for minor league left-handed reliever Walter Pennington.

Seattle made its third significant move ahead of the deadline acquiring veteran Justin Turner from Toronto in exchange for minor league outfielder RJ Schreck.

The 31-year-old Fedde is 7-4 with a 3.11 ERA in 21 starts in a successful return to the majors. He was selected by Washington in the first round of the 2014 amateur draft and is 28-37 with a 4.92 ERA in 123 big league games (109 starts).

NFL

Rodgers angry after being stepped on, Jets' sloppiness

FLORHAM PARK, N.J. | Aaron Rodgers was downright ticked off.

The New York Jets quarterback took the snap, started to drop back — and ended up sprawled on the grass after one of his offensive linemen stepped on one of his feet.

Rodgers shouted. He wasn't hurt, but he was angry.

Monday was that kind of a day, the first this summer in full pads, for the Jets' offense. The temperature was hot and so was the quarterback's temper.

When it's a four-time NFL MVP coming off a torn Achilles tendon getting fired up on the field, though, it raises eyebrows a bit more than usual.

Foot faults and would-be sacks aren't the only issues blowing up the offense. Another source of frustration has been an increased number of high snaps during camp from center Joe Tippmann, who has launched a few balls that Rodgers has had to reach up and snare.

Rodgers, who wasn't scheduled to speak to reporters Monday, has been working regularly with Tippmann as the two try to smooth things out.

Texans' Autry suspended six games for violating PED policy

HOUSTON | Houston Texans defensive lineman Denico Autry was suspended for the first six games of the regular season on Monday for violating the NFL's policy on performance-enhancers.

Autry denied he knowingly ingested a banned substance but said he would accept the suspension. Autry said he discovered the pharmacy that filled a prescription for him had "intentionally, recklessly, or negligently" included a banned substance.

Autry is allowed to participate in preseason practices and games. His first regular-season availability will be Oct. 20 at Green Bay. Autry apologized to the Texans organization, teammates and fans for any distraction his positive test causes. Autry, 34, has 59 sacks in 10 NFL seasons. He had a career-high 11½ last season for the Tennessee Titans and signed a two-year, \$20 million free-agent contract with the Texans in March.

NBA

Hawks acquire Roddy from Suns for Liddell

ATLANTA | The Atlanta Hawks acquired David Roddy from the Phoenix Suns in exchange for E.J. Liddell in a swap of power forwards on Monday.

Liddell was traded for the second time in less than one month. The Hawks acquired Liddell as part of a package that included two first-round draft picks in a deal that sent high-scoring guard Dejounte Murray to the New Orleans Pelicans on July 6. Liddell was a second-round pick from Ohio State by New Orleans in 2022.

Roddy started 13 of 65 games with Memphis and Phoenix in the 2023-24 season and averaged 6.5 points and 3.2 rebounds. Liddell (6-7, 240) saw limited playing time in only eight games with New Orleans last season. Liddell averaged 7.8 points and 4.0 rebounds for Atlanta's summer league team.

FROM WIRE DISPATCHES AND STAFF REPORTS.

AUTO RACING

Verstappen to regroup over break with foes on his tailpipe

By Joseph Wilson

ASSOCIATED PRESS

BARCELONA, SPAIN | What a difference a year can make in Formula 1.

Yes, Max Verstappen is still on pace for yet another world title — it will be No. 4 in a row for the Dutchman unless Red Bull self-implodes.

But no longer is it a foregone conclusion that Verstappen will dominate the competition and, let's face it, bore many fans looking for him to at least be made to sweat.

Fl instead has been lit up this summer as Red Bull's speed advantage has evaporated thanks to huge improvements from more than one rival.

The four cars fielded by Mercedes and McLaren have emerged as threats to Verstappen, while Ferrari's Prancing Horses are also right there. That has produced thrillingly unpredictable races like Sunday's Belgian Grand Prix where Verstappen finished fourth.

A week before that, McLaren's Oscar Piastri and Lando Norris made it a one-two at Budapest, while Verstappen finished fifth. The seven winners in 13 races after the Hungarian GP had already made this season the most competitive since 2012.

"It's great. It's really fantastic, I think, for the sport to be having such close teams and drivers," said Lewis Hamilton, who was declared the winner in Belgium after Mercedes teammate George Russell was disqualified for his car being underweight.

"The pedigree of drivers at the top today are really elite and amazing," the former seven-time world champion said.

Last year, Verstappen recorded an eighth straight victory by finishing first at the Belgian GP and entered the summer break with a 125-point lead over teammate Sergio Pérez. Verstappen would go on to make it an F1 record 10 wins in a row and 19 wins in 22 races for the



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Red Bull driver Max Verstappen appeared to be off to another title march this year after winning four of his first five races. But since then, he has just three wins in the last nine grand prix and has gone four straight races without a win for the first time since 2020.

season. He won 15 races in 2022.

Verstappen appeared to be off to another title march this year after winning four of the first five races. But since then, he has just three wins in the last nine grand prix and has gone four consecutive races without a victory for the first time since 2020, before he became the dominant force in F1.

This time, Verstappen enters the summer break with a 78-point advantage over McLaren's Lando Norris with 10 races to go. The season restarts at the Dutch GP on Aug. 25.

"We are looking forward to the summer break and having a bit of time to

relax, but at the same time we are committed to being better and faster and are trying to find solutions as we go into the rest of the season," Verstappen said after the race at Spa.

"We had a great start to the season, our last few races have been a bit more difficult, but we have been pushing to find a solution how to do that," Verstappen said. "Next race is obviously my home race in Zandvoort. It will be a tough battle and it will be all about tire management, but it will be great to be in front of my home crowd again."

Mercedes enters the break on a high with three wins in the last four races.

Hamilton snapped a long dry spell dating to 2021 when he won the British GP in early July. George Russell followed that up with a victory in Austria. They thought they had a one-two at Belgium, before Russell was disqualified.

That let Hamilton, who is bound for Ferrari next season, take his record win haul to 105 grand prix.

"We didn't expect to be competing with the McLarens or the Red Bulls at this point in the season, you know, with how we started off," Hamilton said. "So for us to now have closed up and be, it's going to be one hell of a second half of the season for sure."

LYLES

From page B12

and 4x100 relay) set him on a path to stardom.

But while nobody in this sport has been more giving of his time, and his insight, in an effort to promote both himself and his sport, Lyles also has done a good job of separating his public and private time.

That's not as much in his control at the living quarters for some of the 14,000 athletes and sports officials who are camping out in Paris over these 17 days.

And to think, Lyles doesn't even race until Saturday.

"It has come with its own challenge of finding my own safe place," he said. "I

don't want to leave. But I feel like after these Olympics, I'm going to have to have conversations higher up than me in making that more available. ... I'm not even the most popular person in the village. I know I'm not the only one who's had to deal with situations like this."

Simone Biles and the U.S. gymnastics team are staying at the village. LeBron James and the U.S. men's basketball team are not.

Back in the day, another well-known sprinter, Usain Bolt, stayed in the village, famously saying he loved the round-the-clock McDonalds that was available and that mingling with other athletes, most of whom doubled as fans, put him at ease. In 2016, though, a concession was made and Bolt got his own room, as opposed to sharing.

"I do get nervous but when I get into the village it always goes away," he said back then.

Lyles has not been shy when it comes to talking about his need to stay on top of his mental and emotional health. He works with three therapists and has told stories about how the atmosphere three years ago at the pandemic-delayed Tokyo Games, with no fans in the stands, impacted his performance.

"I just remember being so, 'This is not it. This is not fun. This is not cool. This is not what I wanted. This is not what I thought it was going to feel like,'" he said of the moments before his 200-meter final in Tokyo, where he won the bronze medal. "And that's literally the last few thoughts I had going through my mind as I got into the blocks. And

it sucked."

Lyles hasn't lost a 200-meter race since, and has now become a threat in the 100, as well. He is one of the must-see athletes at the Olympic track meet.

"This is what I dream of, is these moments right here," Lyles said. "I get more excited the bigger the crowd is."

Unless that crowd is asking him for selfies while he's trying to eat breakfast, or to sign something while he's stretching.

"We still are human beings, and we still want to be able to have our space and our time," Lyles said. "I want to enjoy the Olympics just like you guys are. Trying to find a safe place has been a little difficult these last few days as I'm trying to prepare and dive deep into my mental state."

NATIONALS

From page B12

to the trade deadline, sending outfielder Jesse Winker to the New York Mets on Sunday.

Winker, who originally signed a minor league deal to join the Nationals in February, exceeded expectations in D.C. The 30-year-old averaged .257 with 11 home runs through 101 games with the Nationals.

His impact was felt in the clubhouse, too.

"He kept everybody loose, but he cared. He cared a lot about the players around him, his teammates," Nationals manager Dave Martinez said of Winker. "He helped our young guys out. He's very astute when it comes to guys pitching against him. He did everything we asked him to do."

Rizzo agreed to ship Thomas to the Guardians on Monday in what was the latest in a busy month. The 28-year-old outfielder has served as an everyday outfielder for the Nationals in 2024, but he was slated to enter arbitration in the fall and could become a free agent after the 2025 season.

Washington's prospect pool is also loaded with promising outfielders, leaving Thomas's future with the club in doubt. Rookie outfielder James Wood has impressed in his first month in the majors, while 2023 first-round pick Dylan Crews is expected to join the Nationals' outfield later this season.

Recently acquired

Third baseman Cayden Wallace was Washington's biggest addition from this year's midseason trades. The 22-year-old was the No. 2 prospect in Kansas City's prospect pipeline, according to

MLB.com.

"We feel we got ourselves an upside guy that can impact a baseball game," Rizzo told MLB.com. "[He] plays really good defense at third; he's got a really good arm; he's got power potential and he's a really good hitter, so we liked the skill set."

By dishing Winker to the Mets, Rizzo added 24-year-old pitcher Tyler Stuart to his prospect pool. The 6-foot-9 starter led the minor leagues in ERA last season while pitching for High-A Brooklyn and Double-A Binghamton.

"A big-frame kid; he throws strikes; he competes, so he gives us a little bit more depth, starting pitching-wise. ..." Martinez said, highlighting the right-hander's slider and changeup. "Hopefully, when we do get him up here in the future, he can get outs for us."

In the Thomas trade, Washington added a trio of young prospects in

pitcher Alex Clemmey, shortstop Rafael Ramirez and third baseman Jose Tena.

Tena is the most MLB-ready prospect of the bunch. He averaged .298 with 17 home runs in Triple-A this season after a brief trip to the big leagues in 2023.

Next to go?

Rizzo promised that his front office would be active at the trade deadline. Experts around the league expect Washington to keep selling off veterans, even as the rebuild enters its late stages.

The Athletic reported that Rizzo would look to offload players on expiring contracts or eligible for arbitration. Closer Kyle Finnegan is the most obvious remaining trade candidate. The 32-year-old is entering the final year of his contract. Other potential trade candidates include Derek Law and Dylan Floro, a pair of relievers in their 30s whose contracts expire after this season.

TENNIS

From page B12

longtime coach Wayne Ferreira at the beginning of this year and following a short-lived reunion with another confidante, Diego Moyano.

"I think it's really good to start brand-new and have someone I haven't worked

with before, really get to know him," Tiafoe said. "Also someone that I've known but not actually worked with. He's done really well here with Jess. He did an incredible job with Jess, incredible job with Venus. I think hopefully, the third time's lucky with me."

In other results Monday, Australian Christopher O'Connell defeated Frenchman Harold Mayot in straight sets, 6-7,

7-6 (3). O'Connell faces American Brandon Nakashima in the next round. And Cristian Garin of Colombia won 86% of his first-serve points in a 6-4, 6-2 win over Aslan Karatsev.

Qualifier Mattia Bellucci continued his whirlwind of a weekend, advancing past American Mackenzie McDonald, 7-6 (4), 7-6 (3). The Italian has played matches on four straight days, losing late Friday in the

quarterfinals of the Atlanta Open before flying to the District and winning on Saturday and Sunday to make the main draw.

The lone men's match to go three sets during the early session saw Emil Ruusuvuori outlast Borna Coric in a three-hour battle, 6-7 (4), 7-6 (8), 6-4, with the Finn saving two match points along the way before play was temporarily suspended across the grounds due to lightning.

GYMNASTICS

From page B12

that offered a hint of what it might look like in Los Angeles four years from now.

Mostly, however, they leaned on each other and their experiences to shake off an iffy qualifying session on Saturday in which they finished a sloppy fifth.

"We just told each other we were gonna treat it like an NCAA championships because we've all been there," Malone said. "And it's high pressure

competing for a team. And it's no different this competition. I mean yeah, this one's a little bit different, a little bit bigger. But same concept."

With perhaps a much more impactful result.

Nedoroscik is 26. Malone is 24. Juda is 23. Hong and Richard are 20. There is a feeling of real momentum within the U.S. men's program for the first time in a while. Yet to keep it going, the pipeline behind them needs to keep churning.

There was a sense in the 2010s that the U.S. had grown stale in part because those

at the core group at the top grew a little too comfortable due in part to a lack of competition from those trying to catch them.

Sam Mikulak went to three Olympics with teams that had considerable talent. He never came home with a medal, though on Monday night he was chatting with Nedoroscik as he prepared for his pommel horse set that served as the exclamation point.

While they talked, Mikulak told Nedoroscik to stay calm, that 80% of his best would be good enough. To soak in a moment Mikulak dreamed of but never

quite grasped.

And when Nedoroscik gracefully swooped from one end of the horse to the other, his hands working dutifully in tandem on an event that has given the Americans fits for years, the bronze that felt in some ways like gold was won.

Standing there in the aftermath, Mikulak couldn't help but speculate about what might lie ahead.

"I think the guys are going to be hungry for more," he said. "And hopefully this spurs men's gymnastics in the U.S. like never before."



ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Nationals dealt outfielder Lane Thomas on Monday to the Guardians for three prospects as the team has been active ahead of Tuesday's trade deadline.

NATIONALS

Nationals staying active ahead of trade deadline

By LIAM GRIFFIN
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

The Nationals kicked off the final 24 hours before Tuesday night's MLB trade deadline by dealing outfielder Lane Thomas to Guardians. For the third straight season, the Nationals are primed to sell established assets to the highest bidders at the deadline as they build for the future.

General manager Mike Rizzo signaled the start of the sale earlier this month when he sent reliever Hunter Harvey to the Kansas City Royals. It continued Sunday when he shipped outfielder Jesse

Thomas shipped to Guardians for prospects as team's rebuild continues

Winker to the New York Mets.

"We're always busy at the deadline, whether we're hunting championships or rebuilding or in the mix of both," Rizzo told MLB.com. "So it's always an active trade deadline season, and we're looking forward to the challenge to improve our club for this year and for the future."

Recently departed

Harvey was the first to go. The

Nationals sent him to the Kansas City Royals on July 13, just a day before the MLB draft. The Nationals added a prospect and the No. 39 pick in the draft in the trade.

With the playoffs seemingly out of reach — the Nationals entered Monday's action 6½ games behind the Mets for the final NL wild-card spot — several teams called Rizzo about Harvey's availability. "Kansas City had a lot of interest; a lot

of teams had interest in Hunter," Rizzo said on 106.7 The Fan after the trade. "The timing worked for us because they were willing to give up the 39th pick. So we had to make the trade before the draft, obviously."

The 29-year-old pitcher recorded a 4.20 ERA with 50 strikeouts through 45 innings in 2024. He was tied for the MLB lead with 26 holds before the trade.

Washington used the No. 39 pick on Caleb Lomavita, Baseball America's top-ranked catcher in this year's draft class.

Rizzo remained active in the lead-up

» see **NATIONALS** | B11

PARIS 2024



ASSOCIATED PRESS

The U.S. men's gymnastics team lifts Stephen Nedoroscik in celebration after ending a 16-year Olympic medal drought with the bronze in Paris on Monday.

TENNIS

Endurance put to test for women's D.C. draw

Opening matches go three-set limits

By GEORGE GERBO
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Endurance was the name of the game in the early session at the D.C. Open Monday, with the first three women's matches on opening day needing all three sets to decide, and a men's match needing more than three hours to complete before lightning suspended play.

No. 7 seed Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova took three sets to finish off American and D.C. newcomer Ashlyn Krueger, 6-3, 4-6, 6-4. A Washington finalist nine years ago, the Russian could face the American woman she lost to in that final — Sloane Stephens — in the second round.

China's Yafan Wang surprised former world No. 1 Karolina Pliskova, coming back after dropping the first set to win, 5-7, 6-3, 6-0. Pliskova struggled to find her form, only winning 61.8% of her total points in the match on her serve. American Caroline Dolehide also needed the distance to beat Ukraine's Lesia Tsurenko, 6-1, 3-6, 6-4.

The first day of the men's draw at the Fitzgerald Tennis Center in Rock Creek Park moved along at a more expeditious pace, with the day's first five matches decided in straight sets.

American JJ. Wolf was the first winner in the ATP draw, dispatching compatriot Zachary Svajda 6-4, 7-5. The Ohio native converted half of his break chances in the match (4-of-8) and will face 12th-seeded Serbian Miomir Kecmanovic in the second round.

Tuesday's action will include the return of Frances Tiafoe to his home tournament. The fifth-seeded Hyattsville native will open his D.C. Open with a second-round evening match on Stadium Court against qualifier Colombia's Daniel Galan, who advanced Monday 4 and 3 over American Maxime Cressy.

For Tiafoe, D.C. — which he jokingly calls "the fifth" major — provides an opportunity to realign his season and finish the year with a return to his top-10 form of 2023.

"Now I'm at a stage where I want to chase my dreams and do my thing, ultimately do the goals I always wanted to do as a kid, kind of focus on that, continue to have fun and continue to innovate the game," Tiafoe said. "That's kind of my focus."

The No. 29 player in the world has recently added David Witt, who has worked successfully with fellow Americans Venus Williams and Jessica Pegula, as his coach.

"He's so relaxed and laid back, instills a lot of confidence in guys, aggressiveness in their game," Tiafoe said of Witt. "It's not just on the court when you're hiring a coach. It's also day to day, how they are. We're very similar in our approach to how we see life. Just go about it in a very chilled, relaxed way."

Witt joins Tiafoe's team after the Hyattsville native parted ways with

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SENDING A MESSAGE

By WILL GRAVES
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PARIS | Before they stood with their arms wrapped around each other in a brotherhood forever etched into U.S. Olympic lore, Brody Malone, Frederick Richard, Asher Hong, Paul Juda and Stephen Nedoroscik were collegians.

Yes, the dreams the members of the U.S. men's gymnastics team had fostered since childhood began in small gyms scattered across the country. But they became tangible at Stanford, Michigan and Penn State.

So when it was time for those dreams to become fully, vividly realized inside a raucous Bercy Arena on Monday night, they leaned on the experiences they gained during all those meets in all those sometimes sparsely filled gyms that taught them about pressure and teamwork and belief.

U.S. gymnasts hope NCAA notices after ending lengthy medal drought

Yes, the bronze medal the Americans so emphatically earned ended a 16-year drought on the sport's biggest stage.

Yet it was also a message to athletic directors at the dozen schools that still have Division I gymnastics — and to be honest, to the ones that don't, too — that the sport is worth saving.

"If you want to keep seeing USA Gymnastics and Team USA on a gymnastics podium, at least on the men's side, you're going to have to give us more opportunities to compete in college," said Juda, who is in graduate school at Michigan.

Opportunities that are in danger of vanishing quickly thanks to a rapidly evolving college sports landscape. It's

a reality the five men who stood on the podium with their arms around each other are only too aware of.

Richard, a rising junior at Michigan, has made it his life's mission to bring more people to a side of the sport that — at least in the U.S. anyway — has long plugged along anonymously.

And while he's carved out a rapidly expanding niche on social media, Richard is savvy enough to understand the one thing guaranteed to attract people to men's gymnastics isn't a viral video, but hardware like the medal he kept grabbing in the giddy aftermath.

"My goal even here was to make a statement that the U.S. is getting

stronger and stronger and we're only (going up)," Richard said. "And I think we did that today. I think a lot of young boys watching are inspired by us."

That's the way it was for Richard as a kid in the Boston suburbs. There were pictures on the wall at the gym of the medal-winning 2004 and 2008 U.S. men's Olympic teams. Richard would stare at the pictures and wonder how those teams put all the pieces together.

"It looks like they all came together on the same day and just did like these perfect routines," Richard said. "And you're like, how is that possible?"

Richard found out firsthand. The Americans didn't record a major fall during any of their 18 routines in the final and finished closer to second-place China than fourth-place Britain. They leaned into the energy from a vocal contingent of U.S. fans

» see **GYMNASTICS** | B11

Lyles finds fame, but not much privacy at Paris' Olympic Village

By EDDIE PELLIS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PARIS | Athletes at the Olympics are showering Alexandria native Noah Lyles with the first big taste of celebrity he's been working so hard to make his own.

Nearly a week into this brush with fame — at least inside the athletes village — he's not so sure he's loving the spotlight.

"I'm struggling with my mental," Lyles conceded at the U.S. track and field team's news conference Monday. "I've become kind of popular at the

village. Unfortunately, that comes with its own set of challenges."

He's picking odd times to eat and stationing himself in remote corners of the dining area. He's having trouble getting a routine workout in, lest he get stopped by all the fencers, rowers, judokas and others who, to now, have only seen him on TV.

His major role in the Netflix track documentary "SPRINT" that dropped this month has certainly raised the profile of a sprinter whose three world championships last summer (100, 200

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"I'm struggling with my mental (health)," U.S. track star and Alexandria native Noah Lyles said. "I've become kind of popular at the (athletes) village. Unfortunately, that comes with its own set of challenges."