

RUSSIAN FEDERAL SECURITY SERVICE VIA ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTOGRAPHS

**COMING HOME:** Former Marine Paul Whelan (left) and Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich are among the U.S. prisoners and detainees who are coming back after Russia and the U.S. and allies coordinated a prisoner exchange.

## DIPLOMACY

# Reporter, former Marine freed in prisoner swap with Russia

## Largest East-West exchange since end of Cold War

By **JEFF MORDOCK AND MIKE GLENN**  
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

The United States and its allies agreed Thursday to a massive exchange of political prisoners with Russia, including returning jailed Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich and former Marine Paul Whelan to U.S. soil.

The two detained U.S. citizens had been imprisoned in Russia on espionage charges. The U.S. government rejected the charges as bogus.

Alsu Kurmasheva, a Russian American radio journalist who was detained in Russia in June 2023 on charges of spreading false information about the Russian army, also was among those the Kremlin released.

With 24 prisoners and detainees from the U.S., Russia and countries across Europe, it was the largest East-West exchange of prisoners since the end of the Cold War in 1991.

"Deals like this one come with tough calls," President Biden said in a White

House ceremony held just as the exchanges were playing out on an airport runway in Ankara, Turkey.

Mr. Gershkovich and the other Americans left on a plane that was scheduled to land on U.S. soil late Thursday night. Mr. Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris were scheduled to greet them.

"There's nothing that matters more to me than protecting Americans at home and abroad," Mr. Biden said.

» see **PRISONER** | A5

## TERROR

# Biden, Harris stay silent on plea deal

## 9/11 defendants to serve life in prison

By **JEFF MORDOCK**  
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

As news of a plea deal for the mastermind of the 2001 terrorist attacks hit this week, Vice President Kamala Harris' campaign went into cover mode, saying it wouldn't be commenting and instead referred questions to the White House, which likewise ducked the question.

Military prosecutors reached the agreement with three defendants at Guantanamo Bay, including Khalid Sheikh Mohammed. They will plead guilty to killing 2,976 people in the airplane attacks and will serve life in prison but will not face the death penalty.

The deal was met with derision from Republicans who said the Biden-Harris administration "cut a deal" with al Qaeda terrorists. GOP vice presidential nominee J.D. Vance labeled the plea deal "ridiculous" and blamed President Biden and Ms. Harris.

"We need a president who kills terrorists, not negotiates with them," Mr. Vance said.

Ms. Harris' team, though, tried to put distance between herself and the decision to strike the plea.

Her campaign said it was a matter for the White House, the official side of Ms. Harris' political world. And the White House in turn said it was a decision made by military prosecutors and nobody at the White House was involved.

» see **PLEA** | A4

## A GOLDEN MOMENT FOR BILES



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U.S. gymnast Simone Biles (right) celebrates with teammate Suni Lee after Biles won her sixth career gold medal and Lee won bronze in the women's artistic gymnastics all-around finals Thursday at the Olympics in Paris. Story, B8.

## OLYMPICS

# Furor erupts over men in female sports as boxer abandons bout in first round

By **VALERIE RICHARDSON**  
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Not even the International Olympic Committee knows what a woman is.

The debate over biological males in female sports erupted on the biggest stage of all Thursday as Italian boxer Angela Carini conceded her match to Algeria's Imane Khelif, one of two boxers competing in Paris despite being disqualified at last year's women's world championships for failing gender tests.

Carini retreated to her corner after being punched in the face by an

opponent who towered over her just 46 seconds into the quarterfinal bout, saying later that she felt "extreme pain" in her nose and that "I have never felt a punch like this."

"It hurts so much. I am heartbroken," she told reporters. "I went to the ring to honor my father. I was told a lot of times that I was a warrior, but I preferred to stop for my health."

The episode dragged the IOC once again into the ongoing uproar over male-born athletes in female sports, three years after transgender weightlifter Laurel Hubbard of New Zealand caused a

furor by competing against women in the Tokyo Olympics.

In a joint statement Thursday, the IOC and the Paris 2024 Boxing Unit defended the inclusion of Khelif and Taiwan boxer Lin Yu-ting, saying they had complied with all the eligibility rules, while critics accused the Olympics of sanctioning violence against women.

"After 46 seconds and a few hits to the face by a male, Carini forfeited the fight," swimmer Riley Gaines wrote on X. "Call me crazy, but it's almost as if

» see **OLYMPICS** | A9

## INTERNET

# Conspiracy theories on shooting flourish

## Trump haters seek other explanations

By **STEPHEN DINAN**  
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

As most of the country expressed outrage that a shooter could come within an inch of killing a former president and current GOP nominee, left-wing corners of the internet rushed to watch old video of Donald Trump making appearances at pro wrestling matches.

The theory was that Mr. Trump staged the shooting, cut his own ear to draw blood, then emerged with a raised fist to savor unwarranted adulation.

Never mind the emergency room doctors, the former White House physician, photos capturing a bullet in midair, and even The New York Times' analysis of audio and video footage concluding that Mr. Trump suffered a gunshot wound.

The word "staged" trended on X as Trump-haters reached for alternate explanations for his bloodied face.

Some pointed to Mr. Trump's past appearances at pro wrestling events, saying he had learned their tactic for cutting themselves midfight to produce dramatic bloody injuries.

Others said their suspicions were fueled by the timing, questioning how the gunman only managed to nick the former president's ear. Still others found it curious how quickly merchandise with Mr. Trump's iconic bloody-faced fist pump was available.

And others obsessed over bullet

» see **SHOOTING** | A4

## MEDIA

# Television series presents Taiwan's nightmare scenario for viewers

By **ANDREW SALMON**  
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

**SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA** | A young couple on bicycles looks on with alarm as armored vehicles clatter through the streets of Taiwan's capital, Taipei. As formations of fighter jets thunder over the city, a live TV broadcast by Taiwan's president is suddenly hacked by Chinese cyber operatives.

A vapid online influencer advises her viewers to surrender, while an unhinged gangster with connections to the Communist regime across the Taiwan Strait organizes a gang of thugs and commences operations in support of Beijing.

Finally, camouflaged Chinese troops on the island break cover to initiate the

intricately planned takeover operation.

The scenes — thankfully — are fiction. Though they could be ripped from tomorrow's news bulletins, they are segments of a hyper-realistic new Taiwanese TV thriller, "Zero Day." The upcoming "what-if" drama covers the invasion of the democratic island by China's People's Liberation Army.

It's fictional but not implausible: Chinese President Xi Jinping has vowed to "reunite" the island — peacefully or otherwise — and reportedly has ordered his forces to be prepared for a military operation if necessary by 2027.

Boasting a cast of Taiwanese, Japanese and expatriate Hong Kong actors,

» see **TAIWAN** | A5



ASSOCIATED PRESS

**FICTIONAL BUT NOT IMPLAUSIBLE:** "Zero Day," a TV thriller, is a "what-if" drama and explores a Chinese military invasion of the democratic island.

## HIGHER EDUCATION

# Small colleges cutting positions, programs to close gaps in budget

By **SEAN SALAI**  
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Dozens of regional public and private colleges have eliminated jobs and programs this summer to close budget gaps as enrollment and tuition revenues shrink heading into the fall semester.

The cuts include private Brandeis University in Boston purging 60 staff jobs to shore up a \$2 million deficit and public Western Illinois University trimming more than 70 staff positions and closing a building to offset a \$10 million shortfall.

Some flagship public systems have also tightened their belts: Trustees at West Virginia University voted in June to eliminate five majors at two branch

campuses. Penn State University in May offered faculty contract buyouts to help trim \$94 million, or 14.1%, from its budget starting in July 2025.

The economizing follows several years of downsizing in higher education. Long-term declines in birthrates, rising costs and dwindling job prospects for liberal arts graduates have forced a growing number of second-tier colleges to merge or close.

Academic insiders say the latest cuts have fallen hardest on low-enrollment humanities programs, support staff and boutique sports such as tennis that administrators have deemed costly luxuries in a contracting market.

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## POLITICS

# Montana's Tester keeps distance from Harris in tough Senate race. A3

## NATION

# Fires threaten homes near Denver as heat hinders crews. A6

## WORLD

# Hezbollah leader warns conflict with Israel enters 'new phase.' A8

## REGION

# Federal officials move infamous drug kingpin to halfway house. A10

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MEANWHILE ON THE BORDER

Let's pay a visit to the vigilant officers of U.S. Customs and Border Protection. Here's what they've been up to in recent days.

"U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers at the Port of Lukeville [in Arizona] recently seized approximately 4 million blue fentanyl pills — weighing more than 1,000 pounds," the agency said in a report released Thursday.

"This is the largest fentanyl seizure in CBP's history, and reflects our unwavering determination to protect our nation and to disrupt the criminal activities of ruthless drug cartels," said Troy Miller, the senior CBP official performing the duties of the commissioner.

"Every day, CBP officers and agents are on our front line, using their keen instincts and the latest technology to prevent deadly drugs from entering our country and poisoning our communities," Mr. Miller said in a statement.

Here's the agency's description of some such cases:

"On July 1, a 20-year-old Arizona man, who is a U.S. citizen, arrived at the Port of Lukeville driving a 2011 pick-up truck which was hauling a sport recreational vehicle on a utility trailer. CBP officers performing the inspection for entry to the U.S. sent the driver and vehicles aside for a more intensive inspection," the report said.

"While conducting a thorough inspection of the pick-up truck, trailer, and sport utility vehicle, CBP officers noticed anomalies throughout the frame of the trailer. With the assistance of a CBP canine team, officers discovered 234 packages of drugs concealed within the frame of a trailer," it said.

"Officers at the same port of entry then seized about 270 pounds of methamphetamine several



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Roughly 4 million blue fentanyl pills weighing over 1,000 pounds were seized at the Lukeville, Arizona, port of entry, U.S. Customs and Border Protection said, the biggest seizure in agency history.

days later. The second seizure occurred on July 12, when a 45-year-old male Mexican citizen driving a 2007 Ford F1-50 pick-up truck towing a utility trailer attempted to make entry into the U.S. During an in-depth examination utilizing non-intrusive inspection (NII) and a CBP canine team, officers discovered 39 packages of methamphetamine totaling nearly 272 pounds and an additional five pounds of cocaine," the agency said.

The agency reported that "the estimated street value for these two significant seizures is over \$12.6 million."

HELPFUL BARRIERS

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott is pleased with a decision from the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals to allow the Lone Star State to maintain its floating marine barriers in the Rio Grande.

"The Fifth Circuit delivered a victory for Texas' historic border security mission by ruling that our floating marine barriers can stay," Mr. Abbott said in a statement released Thursday.

"Last year, Texas installed these barriers to deny dangerous and illegal river crossings, and almost immediately, the Biden-Harris Administration sued to remove them and obstruct our efforts to secure our border. We fought to keep these barriers in the water, and with the Fifth Circuit's decision, that is exactly where they will

remain. This fight is far from over. Texas will continue to defend our constitutional right to secure our southern border to keep our state and the nation safe," the governor said.

ON THE RADAR

The popular "Fox & Friends" morning show on Fox News will pay a visit Wednesday to the Buffalo Chip Campgrounds in Sturgis, South Dakota, site of the 84th Sturgis Motorcycle Rally.

Co-host Lawrence Jones will be on the panel from a pop-up diner created by the Sons of Light Motorcycle Ministry from 4 a.m. to 7 a.m. Mountain time (6 a.m. to 9 a.m. Eastern time).

Meanwhile, former President Donald Trump will journey to Bozeman, Montana, on Aug. 9 for a rally.

Montanans, he said in a statement, "have spent \$10,068 more on transportation, \$5,191 more on energy, \$3,626 more on food, and \$6,051 more on shelter on average since January 2021. Buying a home is out of reach for many in Montana, as the median price to buy a home in the Treasure State has jumped 43%."

"President Trump and J.D. Vance will fight to ease the financial pressures placed on households and re-establish law and order in America! We can Make America Great Again by tackling lawlessness head-on, ceasing the endless flow of illegal immigrants across our southern border, and reversing the detrimental effects of inflation by restoring people's wealth," the Trump election campaign said.

ALSO ON THE RADAR

In the meantime, former Fox News anchor Megyn Kelly will host a series of one-hour specials on SiriusXM's Triumph Channel, starting Friday and running through August.

Titled "Get Closer With Megyn Kelly," she will use her noon Friday slot to spotlight a different subject in each show — which range from "relationships and parenting to aging and having a healthy sex life," SiriusXM said in a news

release shared with Inside the Beltway.

The premiere episode will focus on marriage and feature a conversation with marriage counselor Gary Chapman.

WEEKEND REAL ESTATE

For sale: Resort-style home built in 1975 on 25 wooded acres near Frederick, Maryland. Six bedrooms, six baths with owner's suite, great room with "breathtaking" views; 7,432 square feet, large gourmet kitchen with informal eat-in area and custom cabinets; formal dining and living rooms with lofty ceiling, grand fireplace, wall-to-wall windows, screened porch. Lower level features kitchenette, family room with direct access to in-ground swimming pool with outdoor fireplace, fountain and games area, three-car garage. Priced at \$1.9 million through Keller Williams, found at KW.com. Enter MDR2046486 in the search function.

POLL DU JOUR

- 82% of U.S. adults have "no preference" whether a U.S. president is from the Northeast, Midwest, South or West.
- 81% of U.S. adults have no preference whether a president is from a big city, small city, suburb, small town or rural area.
- 71% have no preference whether a president is married or not.
- 71% have no preference whether a president is a pet owner or not.
- 70% have no preference whether a president is a parent or not.
- 64% have no preference whether a U.S. president is a man or a woman.
- 35% have no preference whether a president has previously served in elected office.
- 31% have no preference about the age of a president.

SOURCE: A YOUNG POLL OF 2,266 U.S. ADULTS CONDUCTED ONLINE JULY 25-29 AND RELEASED WEDNESDAY.

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SENATE

# Schumer, Democrats push 'No Kings Act' erasing high court's immunity ruling

By ALEX SWOYER  
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Senate Majority Leader Charles E. Schumer announced Thursday that he's introduced legislation that would allow presidents and vice presidents to be prosecuted for federal crimes, effectively undoing the Supreme Court's recent immunity ruling.

The New York Democrat was joined by more than two dozen of his Democratic colleagues in pushing for the "No Kings Act."

His bill would preclude the Supreme Court from hearing legal challenges to the legislation and from weighing a president or vice president's criminal appeal.

Instead, any legal challenges would be heard in the District Court for the District of Columbia, and appeals would be settled by the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals.

"In a dangerous and devastating ruling, the MAGA Supreme Court has once again subverted the will of the American people, and the very idea of democracy itself," Mr. Schumer said.

"The Founders were explicit — no man in America shall be a king. Yet, in their disastrous decision, the Supreme Court threw out centuries of precedent and anointed Trump and subsequent presidents as kings above the law," he added.

The legislation is unlikely to get the necessary 60 votes to override a filibuster in the upper chamber,

where Democrats hold only a 51-49 edge.

Its chances in the Republican-led House are even slimmer.

Liberals have been outraged for months by the 6-3 conservative majority on the Supreme Court, accusing some of the justices of ethics violations.

President Biden, looking to appease his base, also recently called for Congress to pass term limits and impose a code of ethics on the nation's highest bench.

Most notably, Democrats have been distressed over the justices' July 1 ruling that was seen as a win for former President Donald Trump in his push for immunity from prosecution.

The justices split ideologically in what court

watchers have said is one of the most significant cases to be heard in decades, where the justices ruled 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, who argued he was immune from prosecution in the election fraud case brought by special counsel Jack Smith.

The ruling has left Trump critics frustrated, as the decision delays his election fraud case and other legal battles up and down the East Coast against the former president as lower courts are left to grapple with what charges are subject to immunity and which ones are not.



TRUMP TRIALS

## New York appeals judges retain gag order

Donald Trump's request to lift his gag order was rejected Thursday by a New York appeals court, which reasoned there's still a potential for threats against the court and District Attorney Alvin Bragg ahead of the former president's sentencing in September.

In an unsigned order, a group of New York judges from its appellate division said Mr. Bragg was able to "demonstrate that threats received by district attorney staff after the jury verdict continued to pose a significant and imminent threat."

"We have considered [Mr. Trump's] remaining arguments and find them unavailing," the three-page order read.

The court said New York Supreme Court Justice Juan Merchan had properly weighed Mr. Trump's First Amendment rights with "ensuring the fair administration of justice."

— Alex Swoyer

of them reject the right to assemble, to have a free press, and to petition the government. This is a dictator's fantasy."

— Sean Salai

2024 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

## Harris, running mate plan swing-state trip

Vice President Kamala Harris' campaign and her running mate will embark on a marathon tour of swing states next week, suggesting that her pick will be named within the next few days.

The tour starts on Tuesday in Philadelphia and includes Eau Claire, Wisconsin; Detroit; Research Triangle, North Carolina; Savannah, Georgia; and Phoenix, before concluding in Las Vegas on Aug. 10.

The travel schedule suggests that Ms. Harris will name her running mate before the Democratic National Committee's self-imposed Aug. 7 deadline for a virtual nomination ahead of the party's national convention in Chicago later this month.

— Jeff Mordock

U.S. CAPITOL

## Unveiling of Johnny Cash statue set

Johnny Cash went to Reno, Chicago, Fargo, Minnesota, Buffalo, Toronto — and now has reached the U.S. Capitol.

The Arkansas-born singer, who died in 2003, will have a permanent statue in the Capitol come September, a representation that will join another of the state's structures in Statuary Hall.

House Speaker Mike Johnson, Louisiana Republican, and House Minority Leader Hakeem, New York Democrat, announced Thursday that the dedication ceremony for the sculpture will take place Sept. 24 in Emancipation Hall.

The Cash family will attend, along with Arkansas Gov. Sarah Sanders and the state's congressional delegation.

Mr. Cash's 8-foot bronze statue will show the "Man in Black" with a guitar slung across his back and a Bible in his hand.

— Mallory Wilson



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Senate Majority Leader Charles E. Schumer (center) told reporters Thursday that a senior Republican said to him that Democrats "are going to win the (presidential) election."

2024 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

## Schumer says a top Republican told him that Trump will lose

Republicans are "embarrassed" that former President Donald Trump is questioning whether Vice President Kamala Harris is Black, Senate Majority Leader Charles E. Schumer said Thursday.

"I had one senior Republican colleague saying to me this morning, 'I guess now you're going to win the election,' after he heard Trump last night," the New York Democrat told reporters.

Mr. Trump inaccurately suggested Wednesday at a Black journalists gathering, that Ms. Harris, who is multiracial, did not identify herself as Black until recently.

Republican lawmakers mostly have

avoided directly criticizing Mr. Trump, suggesting their party focus on policy issues.

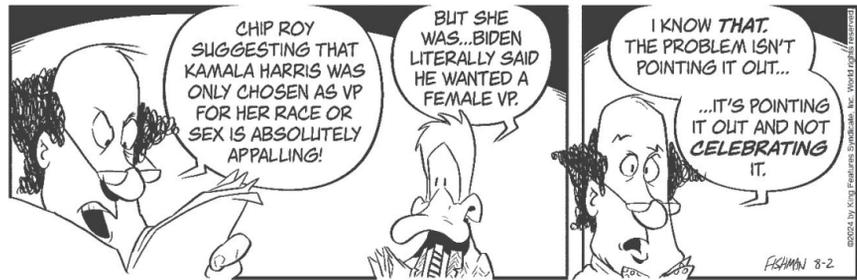
"I wish we'd talk more about her failed policies," said Sen. John Cornyn, Texas Republican. But "Donald Trump is Donald Trump. I don't think he's looking for my advice or anybody else's."

Mr. Schumer suggested Mr. Trump is lashing out because his polling edge has dropped — or disappeared in some swing states — since Ms. Harris took over the Democratic ticket from President Biden.

"The lower Trump gets in the polls, the more unhinged he gets," Mr. Schumer said.

— Lindsey McPherson

MALLARD FILLMORE / Bruce Tinsley



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# Politics

## SENATE

# Senate Republicans kill bipartisan tax legislation

By **LINDSEY MCPHERSON**  
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

The Senate's failure to advance a bipartisan tax bill expanding child and business tax breaks only adds to doubts about Congress' ability to negotiate a broader deal next year on trillions of dollars in tax cuts that are set to expire.

Thursday's test vote on the limited tax bill failed 48-44, with all but three Republicans — Sens. Josh Hawley of Missouri, Markwayne Mullin of Oklahoma and Rick Scott of Florida — voting against it.

Independent Sens. Bernard Sanders of Vermont and Joe Manchin III of West Virginia, who caucus with the Democrats, also opposed the bill.

The legislation, negotiated between Senate Finance Chairman Ron Wyden, Oregon Democrat, and House Ways and Means Chairman Jason Smith, Missouri Republican, passed the House six months ago in an overwhelming 357-70 bipartisan vote.

## Failure to pass raises alarms about the fate of Trump cuts

The bill would renew expired business tax breaks that allow more generous write-offs for research and development, assets that lose value over time and interest expenses.

It would also expand the child tax credit to more low-income families by making the full \$2,000 credit available to families that do not have a tax liability as a refund and allow them to claim the maximum credit for each child instead of just one.

Both the business and child tax breaks would have been retroactively applied to the 2023 tax year and set to sunset at the end of 2025, when trillions of dollars worth of tax cuts from the 2017 tax law Republicans passed under former President Donald Trump will also expire.

With the bill failing "there will be unfinished business that needs to be addressed, and hopefully addressed with

some bipartisan urgency, which is sometimes a challenge in the Senate," Sen. Todd Young, Indiana Republican, said.

Mr. Young voted against the bill because he felt Democrats were only bringing it up to score political points. But he has long said he supports the policies in it, particularly the more generous research and development expensing that he says would help U.S. companies compete globally.

The main complaint from Republicans was that the child tax credit expansion was designed in a way that would disincentivize work.

Several GOP senators also worried that giving any ground to Democrats on the child tax credit now takes away a key piece of leverage they may need to negotiate a deal next year on extending the Trump tax cuts.

"I am a little bit concerned that as [Democrats are] continuing to increase

the amount of mandatory spending on things like refundable tax credits, that they would come back again next year and want more," said Sen. John Cornyn of Texas, who is running in the three-way race to lead Senate Republicans next year.

Sen. Chris Murphy, Connecticut Democrat, said while he voted to advance the bill on Thursday, he felt the tax breaks were "too heavily weighted towards the corporate side" and his party should consider that in future negotiations.

"We should drive a hard bargain," he said. "I don't think there's much of an appetite in this country for more big tax breaks for companies and their millionaire owners."

Republicans are hoping they will have full control of Congress next year and that Mr. Trump will be back in the White House, so they can negotiate a tax deal

among themselves, as they did in 2017. The GOP used the budget reconciliation process, which exempts certain tax and spending provisions from the Senate filibuster, to avoid having to rely on Democratic votes.

But no one knows yet how the November election will play out, and Mr. Hawley argued his party shouldn't be gambling on political outcomes that are not guaranteed.

Senate Majority Leader Charles E. Schumer said he is hoping Republicans "feel the heat" back home this month and come back in September and want to pass the child and business tax breaks.

"As for next year, if we get the majority, one of the things we'd do is undo those real tax cuts to the very wealthy and to the big corporations that Trump did, and instead direct the tax breaks to average working families in America who make below \$400,000," the New York Democrat said.

• Alex Miller contributed to this report.



Sen. Jon Tester said it does not matter who tops the Democratic presidential ticket in solidly red Montana as he still has his "own race to run" against Republican Tim Sheehy. Mr. Tester is considered the Democrat's most vulnerable Senate incumbent.

## SENATE

# Tester keeps his distance from Harris in battle against Republican Sheehy

By **ALEX MILLER**  
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

The dramatic change at the top of the Democratic ticket and Vice President Kamala Harris' surge in battleground states haven't changed the hard slog in Montana for the party's most vulnerable Senate incumbent.

Sen. Jon Tester, who is locked in a dead heat against Republican challenger Tim Sheehy, told The Washington Times that it did not matter who tops the Democratic ticket in solidly red Montana, he still has his "own race to run."

Among the handful of pivotal Senate contests this November, the Montana race is the key to control of the upper chamber, and both sides are going all out to secure a victory in the tightly contested battle.

Mr. Tester, a three-term incumbent, is up against Mr. Sheehy, a former U.S. Navy SEAL and aerospace millionaire hand-picked by the GOP to take him down.

Turmoil and upheaval have rocked the Democratic party for the last month following President Biden's dismal debate performance culminating in him dropping out of the race and Ms. Harris moving in to fill the void.

Ms. Harris' ascension has Republicans still painting him as voting in lockstep with the Biden-Harris agenda but now calling him out for not endorsing the vice president — who is now the Democrats' presumptive presidential nominee.

"I always say this, and this is true: They try to make me something I'm not so they can run against that person, and that is exactly what they've done this cycle," he said.

For much of the race, Mr. Tester has held an edge in polling and fundraising.

He raised \$6.4 million between May 16 and July 1, according to Federal Election Commission records, while Mr. Sheehy raised \$3.1 million during the same period.

Mr. Tester has vastly outspent his rival to the tune of \$33.9 million to Mr. Sheehy's \$10.4 million.

Still, polling shows Mr. Sheehy gained ground on Mr. Tester.

Sen. Steve Daines, who chairs the Senate GOP's campaign arm, the National Republican Senatorial Committee, recently told reporters that it was "remarkable" that despite the millions Mr. Tester poured into the race, Mr. Sheehy was "tied up" with the incumbent.

Montana has shifted from a purple to deep red in recent years, a change that has seen Republicans controlling all of state government and every statewide office except for the Senate seat occupied by Mr. Tester.

Former President Donald Trump dominated the last two presidential contests in the state, winning in 2016 by over 20 points and in 2020 by nearly 17 points.

Mr. Tester's lone race where he shared a presidential ticket was in 2012 when Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney beat President Obama in Montana by nearly 14 points. Mr. Tester scored 34,000 more votes than Mr. Obama in 2012, beating his opponent by just over 4 points.

Mr. Trump is slated to hold a rally in Bozeman, Montana, on Aug. 9 in support of Mr. Sheehy. During the 2018 cycle, the former president visited Montana four times to boost the GOP candidate Rep. Matt Rosendale, who lost to Mr. Tester by nearly 4 points.

"We're so happy to welcome President Trump back to Montana once again," Mr. Sheehy said in a video posted to X. "He's here to campaign alongside

us. We're grateful for that because he knows how important it is we flip this seat so we can put the America First agenda back in the fast track, get this country fixed, and save America."

Meanwhile, Democrats are banking on Mr. Tester's popularity and reputation as a Montana individualist who defies party labels.

"Jon Tester is no stranger to tough races," said Monica Robinson, a spokesperson for Mr. Tester's campaign. "He's won three in a row because he has a strong coalition of support across the state, including independent voters and Republicans, and he relentlessly defends Montana every day."

But in the six years since his last campaign, Montana has seen a dramatic influx of newcomers to the state. Mr. Daines said that the people moving in from blue states could turn the tide in favor of Mr. Sheehy.

"Montana has seen a surge in center-right voters who are fleeing liberal states like California, Oregon and Washington because of the exact policies supported by San Francisco radical Kamala Harris," he said in a statement to The Times.

Mr. Sheehy is also a relative newcomer to Montana. He moved to the state in 2014 and has since founded the aerial firefighting company Bridger Aerospace.

Mr. Tester has made Mr. Sheehy's out-of-state roots a building block of his attacks, tying him to a trend of Republicans that have come from elsewhere, including Gov. Greg Gianforte who is from New Jersey and Mr. Rosendale who is from Maryland.

"If you're not from here, Jon Tester doesn't think your voice matters, apparently," Mr. Sheehy said during a debate with Mr. Tester in June. "Creating jobs in this state was an honor for me to do."

## GUN RIGHTS

# Harris backed using 'lists' of gun owners for door-to-door seizures

By **KERRY PICKET**  
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Presumptive Democratic presidential nominee Kamala Harris once threatened to use databases of gun owners to send police to their homes to confiscate firearms.

Ms. Harris described her gun control stance in August 2019 at a Democratic presidential primary forum that took place shortly after two deadly mass shootings in California and Texas.

She said she was "prepared to take executive action" to implement comprehensive background checks, crack down on gun dealers and ban the import of so-called assault weapons.

Ms. Harris said she knew how to enforce tough gun laws because as California attorney general she allowed police to "knock on the doors of people" on a state list of prohibited gun owners and people deemed a danger to themselves and others.

"We sent law enforcement out to take those guns because we have to deal with this on all levels."

The Harris campaign did not respond to a request for comment about her current stance on the government seizing Americans' firearms.

Last March, Ms. Harris announced the launch of the first-ever National Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO) Resource Center, funded through a Justice Department grant which will support the implementation of state red flag laws.

Extreme Risk Protection Orders generally establish a civil process for law enforcement, that can begin with family members or others seeking a judicial order that a person is a danger to themselves or others and should temporarily lose the ability to purchase and possess firearms.

The Resource Center is funded by a Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice

Assistance grant made possible by the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act and is run by the Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Violence Solutions.

The Center is already facing opposition from almost 20 attorneys general in GOP-run states. They say the ERPO Resource Center, most notably how the program advocates for laws that allow government officials to "suspend fundamental rights under the Second Amendment with no genuine due process."

"The solution to gun violence is not more bureaucracy, and it is certainly not parting otherwise law-abiding men and women from their right to self-defense," they said in a letter in April to U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland that the National ERPO Resource Center.

More recently, unnamed Harris campaign advisers told The New York Times that she no longer supported a mandatory buyback of civilian-owned "assault weapons" or several other progressive policy stances she took during the 2020 presidential race.

John Feinblatt of the gun-control advocacy group Everytown lauded Ms. Harris' time as the head of the White House's Office of Gun Violence Prevention, where she spearheaded efforts to eliminate gun manufacturers' immunity from liability, ban "assault weapons" and expand background checks for gun purchases.

"There's a reason Vice President Harris was tapped to oversee the first-ever White House Office of Gun Violence Prevention: She's long been a steadfast and effective champion of common sense laws to create safer communities," Mr. Feinblatt said in a statement. "The 'guns everywhere' agenda promoted by Trump and Vance flies in the face of both common sense and public opinion, and Everytown's top priority will be helping Vice President Harris counter their violent vision and win in November."



As California attorney general, Vice President Kamala Harris allowed police to "knock on the doors of people" on a state list of prohibited gun owners.

## DEMOCRATS

# Pro-Israel super PAC pushes to topple another 'Squad' member in Bush

By JIM SALTER AND ANTHONY IZAGUIRRE  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

**ST. LOUIS** | A deep-pocketed pro-Israel super PAC that helped defeat one member of the congressional group known as the "Squad" is now pushing to oust another — Missouri Democrat Cori Bush.

Ms. Bush, of St. Louis, has been a vocal critic of how Israel responded when attacked by Hamas in October, calling the Israeli retaliation an "ethnic cleansing campaign," and she was among the few House members who opposed a resolution supporting Israel. She boycotted Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's speech before Congress last week, calling him a "war criminal."

The American Israel Public Affairs Committee's super political action committee, United Democracy Project, has spent more than \$8.4 million to unseat Ms. Bush in her Aug. 6 Democratic primary against St. Louis County Prosecuting Attorney Wesley Bell, according to federal campaign finance records.

"AIPAC's grassroots members are proud to support strong pro-Israel progressive Democrats like Wesley Bell," an AIPAC statement to The Associated Press read. "Cori Bush has been one of the most hostile critics of Israel since she came to Congress in 2021 and has actively worked to undermine mainstream Democratic support for the U.S.-Israel

relationship."

The race points yet again to the complications the war in Gaza has caused for Democrats in this year's elections, with core constituencies at odds over how President Biden's administration has responded. The disagreement has implications up and down the ballot and has already cost one incumbent his seat. United Democracy Project spent nearly \$15 million against progressive Rep. Jamaal Bowman, one of the most vocal critics of the Israeli government in the House, in a June primary election he lost to George Latimer, a pro-Israel centrist in New York.

Afterward, AIPAC said the "outcome in this race once again shows that the pro-Israel position is both good policy and good politics — for both parties."

Ms. Bush, in an interview, said the donors behind AIPAC support former President Donald Trump and other Republicans.

"This is only the beginning," Ms. Bush said. "Because if they can unseat me, then they're going to continue to come after more Democrats."

Despite the onslaught of money, Ms. Bush said she is confident she has the support of St. Louis voters.

"They know that I've had this same belief, this pro-peace, pro-democracy, pro-diplomacy, anti-war, pro-humanity — I've been this person all along," she said.

Soon after the Hamas terror attack on Israel, Ms. Bush wrote on social media that Israel's "collective punishment against Palestinians for Hamas's actions is a war crime."

"I strongly condemn Hamas & their appalling violations of human rights," she wrote, "but violations of human rights don't justify more human rights violations in retaliation."

Her comments prompted backlash, even among some supporters in her district. Not long after that, Mr. Bell announced he was dropping his plans to run for the Senate against incumbent Republican Josh Hawley to instead challenge Ms. Bush.

Mr. Bell, like Bush, is Black and was active in Ferguson, Missouri, after Black 18-year-old Michael Brown was killed by a White police officer in 2014, a shooting that helped launch the national Black Lives Matter movement.

Mr. Bell, in an interview, said Ms. Bush's comments about Israel were "wrong and offensive."

"She has accused the people who have been the target of genocide and ethnic cleansing of doing that, which was just wrong," he said. "Israel was attacked on Oct. 7 by a terror state. They didn't attack military targets. They attacked (people) at a concert. They attacked women, seniors, children, killed babies."

Mr. Bell said the goal should be to



ASSOCIATED PRESS

A pro-Israel super PAC is spending millions to try and unseat Rep. Cori Bush in the Missouri's Democratic primary on Tuesday, Ms. Bush has been a vocal critic of how Israel responded when attacked by Hamas in October.

work toward a "peaceful resolution" in the Middle East.

AIPAC isn't alone in seeking Ms. Bush's ouster. DMFI PAC, which supports pro-Israeli Democrats, is funding TV ads supporting Mr. Bell and Yasamin Ansa, an Arizona Democrat opposing Rep. Ruben Gallego.

Conversely, nearly two dozen progressive groups have come together to support Ms. Bush and other Squad members. The coalition, called Reject AIPAC, includes Jewish peace organizations and Arab American and Muslim groups that have been organizing since the Israel-Hamas war began.

Justice Democrats, one group that is part of Reject AIPAC, has spent around \$1.5 million on behalf of Ms. Bush in the primary cycle. Justice Democrats

spokesperson Usamah Andrabi called AIPAC's record spending in the New York race "an all-out assault on our Democracy" that was being repeated in Missouri.

"Are we willing to let super PACs and lobbies, no matter what interests they represent, purchase elections and congressional seats just because they have more money?" Mr. Andrabi asked. "Or are we going to build a Democratic Party that actually reflects the needs and interests of everyday people?"

Ms. Bush also is getting moral support from several key Democratic congressional leaders. But the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee has stayed out of the Missouri race, with no contributions listed for either Ms. Bush or Mr. Bell.

## PLEA

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"The president and the White House played no role in this process. The president has directed his team to consult as appropriate with officials and lawyers at the Department of Defense on this matter," said a White House National Security Council spokesperson.

White House National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan said even he was caught off guard by the plea deals.

"The president had no role, the vice president had no role, I had no role," Mr. Sullivan said. "We were informed yesterday the same day that they went out publicly with this pretrial agreement that had been accepted by the convening authority."

Mr. Sullivan said Mr. Biden ordered his team to consult with lawyers at the

Department of Defense and those talks are ongoing.

Ms. Harris is enjoying a honeymoon period as Democrats' presumptive presidential nominee after Mr. Biden, battered by questions of mental acuity and electability, withdrew from the 2024 race against former President Donald Trump.

The terrorist plea deal is the first in what is likely to be a series of tests for Ms. Harris as she tries to blaze her own path on foreign policy and thread the needle between the political needs of her electoral coalition and the duties of being Mr. Biden's second-in-command.

Other possible flashpoints include the upcoming one-year mark of Israel's war with Hamas, ongoing ramifications of the U.S. border crisis and negotiations with Congress over funding the government for the next fiscal year.

Still, Republican political strategist Ford O'Connell wondered if Ms. Harris

will ever be forced to answer tough questions in the sprint to November.

"She can do this as long as the media allows her to," he said. "They have already changed like 20 positions. .... It is frustrating that she is getting more mulligans and look-the-other-ways than probably anyone in presidential history."

"Donald Trump is not running against Kamala Harris. He is running against the mainstream media that hates his guts and wants the Democrats to remain in power," Mr. O'Connell said.

The White House's silence was matched by outrage from Republicans and from survivors and relatives of victims of the 2001 attack.

Brett Eagleson, president of 9/11 Justice, said the families are "deeply troubled" by the plea deals.

"These plea deals should not perpetuate a system of closed-door agreements, where crucial information is

hidden without giving the families of the victims the chance to learn the full truth," he said.

A union representing New York City firefighters said its members are "disgusted and disappointed" in the plea deals.

The FDNY Uniformed Firefighters Association said that deal allows the accused terrorist to "escape ultimate justice while each month three more heroes from the FDNY are dying from World Trade Center illnesses."

Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, Kentucky Republican, called the deals "a revolting abdication of the government's responsibility to defend America and provide justice."

House Speaker Mike Johnson, Louisiana Republican, said the deals were a "slap in the face" for victims' families.

"For more than two decades, the families of those murdered by these terrorists

have waited for justice," he said in a statement. "This deal is a slap in the face of those families. They deserved better from the Biden-Harris administration."

The military prosecutors, though, said the deal was "the best path to finality and justice" given the legal complications of a case that's already stretched for two decades.

The deal covers Mohammed, seen as the mastermind of the 2001 attacks, and Walid Muhammad Salih Mubarak Bin Attash and Mustafa Ahmed Adam al-Hawsawi.

Analysts have said the cases against the men were made more difficult because of the torture they were subject to after their apprehensions, as the CIA sought to extract information about al Qaeda's broad terrorist network.

Two other defendants accused of roles in the 2001 attacks were not covered by the new agreement.

## SHOOTING

From page A1

trajectories, dimensions of the wound and the amount of blood, coming to the conclusion that things didn't add up.

"There was no blood on his hand when his hand fell from his ear before he went down behind all the secret service people and became hidden. Then while he was hidden, they put fake blood on him," said one Reddit user. "The police and secret service ignored the warnings because they were in on it."

Stanley Renshon, a political scientist and psychoanalyst at the City University of New York's Lehman College, said it's all fueled by a Trump obsession that has consumed so many voters for nearly a decade.

"It's all a part of the same psychology, which is Trump hatred, which will leave no stone unturned to blacken his name," said Mr. Renshon.

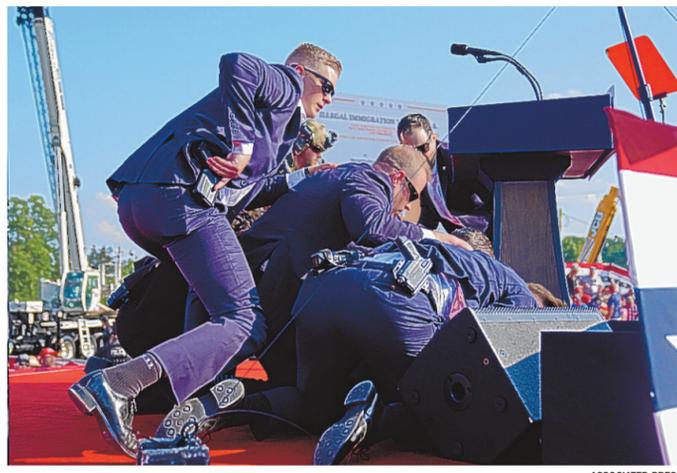
The theories are proving particularly persistent.

After the initial wave of skepticism cooled down, FBI Director Christopher A. Wray breathed new life with his testimony to Congress last week in which he seemed to question Mr. Trump's account of a bullet.

"There's some question about whether or not it's a bullet or shrapnel that, you know, that hit his ear," Mr. Wray told lawmakers.

Coverage of Mr. Wray's testimony quickly spread online.

"He said he 'took a bullet for democracy.' Apparently not," said one commenter on Reddit, while another insisted, "He cut his own ear." Still another dubbed Mr. Trump "Ear Farce One."



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Despite evidence to the contrary, conspiracy theories about the assassination attempt on former President Donald Trump persist. Some point to the trajectories of the bullets, the dimensions of his ear wound and say it doesn't add up.

Claims that Mr. Trump was seen at his golf course a day after the shooting without a bandage on his ear quickly spread, despite having no basis. And even initial reports that he was struck by glass instead of a bullet persist, though the teleprompters — the supposed source of the glass — were intact, according to fact-checkers.

Not even the death of a rallygoer and the critical wounding of two others dissuaded the naysayers. One poster called it "collateral damage" while another said: "I wouldn't put it past him to kill one of [his] supporters to make it look real."

The FBI initially defended Mr. Wray's comment, but after 48 hours the bureau walked it back, saying "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."

That correction drew far less attention on the doubter forums.

To be clear, even the most liberal members of Congress aren't expressing those views.

But in online forums where younger liberal-leaning Americans gather, doubts about the shooting are plentiful. At Reddit, for example, where users vote on posts to give them a higher profile, stories questioning Mr. Trump's injuries regularly got boosted to the website's "front page."

Mr. Trump's shooting has spawned

some theories on the right as well, including a sentiment that his protection was so lacking that it was suspicious.

Mr. Renshon said those questions are being fueled by the way officials, including the now-ousted Secret Service director, handled the initial aftermath, suggesting they left the gunman's rooftop sniper's perch vacant because her agents were afraid of slipping "on a sloped roof."

He said that kind of "ridiculous" answer leads people "to wonder whether there was some malfeasance that borders on a setup."

"If I were in the position of authority in this case I would err on the side of giving more and more information because people really need to be assured there's not something untoward going on here," said Mr. Renshon, author of books psychoanalyzing recent presidents, and of the forthcoming book "Crossing the Rubicon in American Politics: Causes, Consequences and Cures."

Even some mainstream news outlets have given nods to the conspiracy theories. Stories tracking the size of Mr. Trump's ear bandage implicitly questioned the extent of the original injury. Those stories often pointed out that Mr. Trump has not released a medical report, which the reporters said fueled the doubts.

It's a striking turnabout for Mr. Trump, who himself famously drove unfounded theories about President Obama's birth.

So-called birthers used the same argument on Mr. Obama that Trump skeptics now use: Release the documents or else we'll assume you're lying.

Mr. Obama eventually did so, in 2011, with the White House releasing his long-form birth certificate. But

that wasn't enough to quell right-wing skepticism.

Joe Arpaio, at the time the sheriff in Maricopa County, Arizona and later a major Trump supporter, dedicated his volunteer "posse" to disproving the document. In 2012, he held a press conference to announce they had "proved" it to be a fake.

For the Trump shooting, Cybra Strategy, a firm that tracks disinformation, conducted a study and concluded that a large portion of the shooting skepticism was coming from what it called "fake accounts."

And there has been some consistent pushback even from the left, where social media posters have chided fellow progressives for outlandish speculation, saying it was what they would expect from "right-wing conspiracists."

Fed up with the spreading theories, Sen. John Kennedy this week sought to nail things down.

"Is there any doubt in your mind or in the collective mind of the FBI that President Trump was shot in the ear by a bullet fired by the assassin?" the Louisiana Republican challenged FBI Deputy Director Paul Abbate.

"There is absolutely no doubt in the FBI's mind whether former President Trump was hit with a bullet and wounded in the ear. No doubt. There never has been," Mr. Abbate said.

"You're sure?" Mr. Kennedy persisted, adding, "It wasn't a space laser? ... It wasn't a murder hornet? ... It wasn't Sasquatch?"

"No, senator," Mr. Abbate said.

"It was a bullet," Mr. Kennedy asserted.

"It was a bullet, senator," Mr. Abbate concluded.

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## MAKING A DEAL

A list of those released by both sides in the largest prisoner swap between Russia, U.S. and Western European nations since the end of the Cold War.

### RELEASED BY RUSSIA AND BELARUS

**EVAN GERSHKOVICH**, a Wall Street Journal reporter, arrested on espionage charges in March 2023.

**PAUL WHELAN**, an ex-Marine and corporate security executive from Michigan, arrested on espionage charges in Moscow in 2018.

**ALSU KURMASHEVA**, a dual U.S.-Russian national and editor for the U.S. government-funded Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, arrested in 2023 on charges of spreading false information about the Russian military.

**VLADIMIR KARA-MURZA**, a dual Russian-U.K. citizen and prominent opposition politician, arrested in 2022 after criticizing the war in Ukraine.

**ILYA YASHIN**, a member of Russia's small political opposition, serving an 8½ year sentence for criticizing the war in Ukraine.

**ANDREI PIVOVAROV**, head of the now-banned opposition group Open Russia, convicted in 2022 for the activities of an "undesirable" organization.

**OLEG ORLOV**, co-chairman of the Nobel Peace Prize-winning human rights group Memorial, convicted of discrediting the Russian military and protesting the war in Ukraine.

**SASHA SKOCHILENKO**, 33, was convicted in November 2023 for replacing several price tags in a supermarket with anti-war slogans.

**KSENIA FADEYEVA**, **LILIA CHANY SHEVA** and **VADIM OSTANIN**, former coordinators of regional offices of the late opposition figure Alexei Navalny, convicted of extremism in 2021.

**KEVIN LIK**, 19, a dual Russian-German national, convicted for treason in 2023 for allegedly taking photos of a military unit and sending them to a "representative of a foreign state."

**RICO KRIEGER**, a German medical worker, was convicted in Belarus of terrorism charges in June, and sentenced to death.

**DEMURI VORONIN**, a dual Russian-German national political scientist, convicted of treason in 2023 for allegedly passing information on Russian military activities.

**PATRICK SCHOEBEL**, a German national, was charged with drug-smuggling in February 2024 at Pulkovo Airport in St. Petersburg.

**GERMAN MOYZHES**, a dual Russian-German migration lawyer who helped Russians apply for European Union residence permits, accused of treason in May.

### RELEASED BY THE U.S. AND EUROPEAN NATIONS

**VADIM KRASIKOV**, convicted in 2021 of shooting to death Zelimkhan "Tornike" Khangoshvili, a 40-year-old Georgian citizen of Chechen ethnicity, in a Berlin park, in a hit German authorities said was ordered by the Russian security services.

**PAVEL RUBTSOV**, a journalist working for Spanish media, was arrested for spying for Russia in eastern Poland in the first days after Moscow's full-scale invasion in 2022.

**ROMAN SELEZNEV**, the son of a Russian lawmaker, was convicted in the U.S. in 2017 of hacking into more than 500 businesses and stealing millions of credit card numbers, which he then sold on websites.

**VLADISLAV KLYUSHIN**, a wealthy businessman with ties to the Kremlin, was convicted in Boston in 2023 of charges including wire fraud and securities fraud in a nearly \$100 million scheme that relied on secret earnings information stolen via hacking U.S. computer networks.

**VADIM KONOSHCHENOK**, a suspected officer in Russia's Federal Security Service, was extradited to the United States from Estonia last year to face charges he smuggled ammunition and dual-use technology to help Moscow's war in Ukraine.

**ARTEM DULTSEV** and **ANNA DULTSEVA**, a Russian "sleeper agent" couple with two children arrested on espionage charges in Ljubljana, Slovenia, in 2022.

**MIKHAIL MIKUSHIN**, arrested in Norway in 2022 on charges for secretly working for Russia's intelligence service.

SOURCE: U.S. GOVERNMENT; ASSOCIATED PRESS



ASSOCIATED PRESS

The freed prisoners and detainees were expected to arrive in Ankara, Turkey, on Thursday night. In a statement, President Biden thanks the governments of Germany, Norway, Poland, Slovenia and Turkey for their help in making the deal happen.

## PRISONER

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In a statement from the White House, Mr. Biden thanked the governments of Germany, Norway, Poland, Slovenia and Turkey for their help in bringing the deal together. Several allies had to make painful sacrifices before the deal could go through, U.S. officials said, in particular German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, who had to give up a convicted murderer.

"This is a powerful example of why it's vital to have friends in this world whom you can trust and depend upon," Mr. Biden told reporters. "Our alliances make Americans safer."

In exchange, Russian President Vladimir Putin demanded and got Vadim Krasikov, who was convicted in Germany in 2021 and sentenced to life in prison for killing a former Chechen rebel in a Berlin park two years earlier, apparently on the orders of Moscow's security services.

Throughout the negotiations, Moscow had been persistent in pressing for his release, with Mr. Putin himself raising it, The Associated Press reported.

Overall, some 16 people were released from Russian and Belarusian jails, and eight Russians were allowed to travel to Moscow, where Mr. Putin met them on the tarmac. Two minors were also sent to Russia, believed to be the children of a Russian couple jailed in Slovenia as sleeper agents.

Other dissidents released included Vladimir Kara-Murza, a Kremlin critic

and Pulitzer Prize-winning writer serving 25 years on charges of treason widely seen as politically motivated, as well as multiple associates of the late opposition leader Alexei Navalny.

White House National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan told reporters at the White House that U.S. officials originally hoped to include Navalny in the package, but he died in a Russian jail in February under still-unexplained circumstances.

Mr. Biden's Democratic allies on Capitol Hill were quick to credit the president with a diplomatic triumph.

Many Republicans said they were glad to see the American prisoners come home but noted the negotiations had also come at a cost, and could spur Mr. Putin to use hostages again as leverage.

"Without serious action to deter further hostage-taking by Russia, Iran and other states hostile to the United States, the costs of hostage diplomacy will continue to rise," GOP House Speaker Mike Johnson of Louisiana and Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky said in a joint statement.

"As we renew our call for the return of all persons wrongfully detained by the Kremlin, we recognize that trading hardened Russian criminals for innocent Americans does little to discourage Putin's reprehensible behavior," the two top Republicans on Capitol Hill said.

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump, in his own remarks on the deal, also raised the question of whether the Biden administration had paid too much to the Kremlin to secure

the release of the detainees.

"So when are they going to release the details of the prisoner swap with Russia?" Mr. Trump asked on his Truth Social messaging site. "How many people do we get versus them? Are we also paying them cash?"

White House officials said no cash was involved in the swap.

At a White House event with families of the detainees, Mr. Biden said Elizabeth Whelan, sister of Paul Whelan, had been practically a White House resident. He then asked Ms. Kurmasheva's daughter Miriam to come forth and told the room it was the girl's 13th birthday. He called on the room to sing "Happy Birthday" to her, drawing tears from Miriam.

The deal had reportedly been in the works for months, but matters picked up in recent weeks when Mr. Gershkovich's trial and conviction suddenly occurred in a Russia courtroom last month, clearing the way for Mr. Putin to release him to the West.

"Today is a joyous day for the safe return of our colleague Evan Gershkovich," Wall Street Journal Editor-in-Chief Emma Tucker said in an open letter on social media.

"We are grateful to President Biden and his administration for working with persistence and determination to bring Evan home rather than see him shipped off to a Russian work camp for a crime he didn't commit," Ms. Tucker said.

• David R. Sands contributed to this article, which was based in part on wire service reports.

## TAIWAN

From page A1

high production values and portentous theme music, "Zero Day's" global ambitions are obvious in its English-language subtitles. The 10-part series, with each episode made by a different director, is expected to run on a yet-to-be-named streaming service early next year.

Posted this week, the series' 17-minute trailer, free to watch on YouTube with already nearly 1 million views, covers ominous events from just the first episode.

Set in the near future, the drama begins in the political vacuum between a Taiwanese presidential election and the new president's inauguration. In this politically sensitive time, a Chinese military aircraft crashes off Taiwan.

A surviving crewman, picked up by a warship, makes clear the aerial disaster was caused by an internal explosion, but Beijing uses the incident as the justification for an invasion.

The countdown to the cross-strait assault in the trailer incorporates a number

of scenarios anticipated by analysts and war gamers about a possible China-Taiwan showdown.

China's navy immediately initiates a blockade. As tensions rise, the stocks of Taiwan's world-class computer chip-makers plummet and there is a run on local banks. Some citizens flee; others decide to defend their country and join the military, amid growing evidence of social confusion and chaos.

### Strong emotions

The trailer has sparked reactions in Taiwan.

"Goosebumps — every countdown to the enemy's actions is happening," wrote YouTuber nylingi1250. "It's hard to imagine how to face it when that day comes."

"We won't give in," added another commenter on the video. "I am willing to stand in front of my country and my mother, Taiwan."

One expatriate Taiwanese said he was pleased that a wider international audience will potentially be exposed to the perils the island faces because of the series.

"It's a good start, to try to show the risk, and to show how important the situation in Taiwan is," said Yang Chien-hao, a Seoul-based reporter. "With this cultural content, people will start to think."

One aim of the series, a financial backer told a press conference, is to shift Taiwanese public perceptions.

"Taiwanese people's preparation and understanding is crucial when facing a cross-strait crisis," said Robert Tsao, founder of contract chipmaker United Microelectronics Corp, the news website Focus Taiwan reported. "Drama can have an impact on how people perceive, and we hope that this drama sends some kind of warning, because Taiwan is now under cultural attack."

"Zero Day" represents the first investment by the chipmaker in film, according to Focus Taiwan.

Mr. Tsao has previously funded Taipei's Kuma Academy, which offers citizens courses in countering disinformation, crisis preparation, first aid and survival.

The makers of "Zero Day" received support from the Defense Ministry as

well as financial backing from Taipei's Ministry of Culture. The ministry oversees a \$305 million fund designed to promote the island's cultural content industry, including film and TV.

### Distinct break

"Zero Day" also marks a distinct break from the typical fare offered by the island's domestic cultural industry. Critics say Taiwan, despite its economic success, desperately needs to promote domestic artistic works as well — particularly those dealing with thorny issues.

Over the last two decades, many of the singers, actors, auteurs and producers from Taiwan, with a population of about 23.5 million, have tailored their offerings to attract the lucrative Chinese market and a potential audience of some 1.4 billion people. The Chinese mainland uses the same language as Taiwan, Mandarin, but wields a strong censorial hand about what content can be shown domestically.

Given the economic realities, questions have been raised about the loyalty of some local Taiwanese artists.

"Taiwanese actors, on China's national day, post on their Weibo accounts that they congratulate China, but they don't say a word on Taiwan's national day," said the reporter Mr. Yang, who closely covers South Korea's cultural industry. "To make money, they have to show their loyalty to Chinese authorities, and this makes self-censorship serious."

He noted that South Korean producers have turned highly sensitive political issues into movies, while their Taiwanese counterparts have been loath to do so, despite the similar democratic freedoms enjoyed by both states.

As such, he — along with many commenters on YouTube — applauded those who have risked severing potentially lucrative ties with the Beijing regime to participate in "Zero Hour."

"It will be risky for their careers and they will be blacklisted. This movie certainly will not go onto streaming services in China," Mr. Yang said. "I regard it as a good beginning and I hope to see more and more of these things being made in the future, to reflect Taiwan's situation and history."

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# Nation



Firefighters are contending with flames that are threatening houses in the Denver area. Almost 100 major fires are burning across the Western states. More than 400 homes and other structures had been burned as of Thursday in Northern California.

## WEATHER

# Blazes threaten homes near Denver as heat hinders crews across West

By **JESSE BEDAYN AND MATTHEW BROWN**  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

**DENVER** | A wildfire on the edge of metro Denver crept within a quarter-mile of evacuated homes, but authorities said Thursday they were hopeful that hundreds of threatened residences could be saved as they grapple with sweltering temperatures and firefighters suffering from heat exhaustion.

The fire was among several threatening heavily populated areas of the Colorado foothills, including one in which a person was killed earlier this week.

About two dozen homes and out-buildings were damaged or destroyed in yet another fire, near Loveland, Colorado, authorities disclosed after an initial survey of the burn area.

Almost 100 large fires are burning across the western U.S. The largest, in Northern California, has burned more than 400 houses and other structures, officials reported Thursday.

New large fires were reported in Idaho, southeast Montana and north Texas.

A fire southwest of the Denver suburb of Littleton encroached on several large subdivisions. Neighborhoods with nearly 600 homes were ordered to evacuate after the fire of unknown origin spread quickly overnight Tuesday.

By Thursday afternoon, firefighting aircraft zipped back and forth between the blaze and a nearby reservoir. Planes skimmed the surface to scoop up water and hovering helicopters pumped water into their tanks, before the aircraft would return to the fire to dump their loads.

Jim and Meg Lutes watched from an overlook near their house northeast of the fire as smoke plumed up from the ridges.

Their community west of Littleton was not under evacuation orders, but the couple had been ready to start packing a day earlier when flames could be seen blanketing the mountains.

"It can come over that hill pretty quick if the wind changes," said Jim Lutes, 64, pointing to a nearby ridge.

Five firefighters were injured Wednesday, including four who had heat exhaustion, said Mark Techmeyer with

the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office.

The fire was in steep terrain that made it difficult to access but had been held to less than half a square mile with no houses yet destroyed, authorities said. Officials said it remained a major hazard with Thursday's hot temperatures and low humidity elevating the fire danger.

The fire has "proven to be one of the most challenging firefights I've seen," Mr. Techmeyer said at a press conference Thursday as helicopters passed overhead.

He was flanked by hillsides where firefighters labored to keep the blaze from hopping a road separating the conflagration from populated areas.

"If we lose control of that fire and it jumps over the north side, that would be our nightmare," Mr. Techmeyer said, motioning toward dense neighborhoods and the City of Littleton.

The ranks of firefighters doubled since the day before, from 75 to 155, most of them volunteers. No structures had been lost as of Thursday afternoon but authorities expected the battle to be a long one.

## EDUCATION

# Biden's Title IX rule limps into effect after losing 26 challenges against states

## Regulatory rewrite adds gender identity

By **VALERIE RICHARDSON**  
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

The Biden administration's ambitious Title IX overhaul went into effect Thursday not with a bang but a whimper, blocked in all 26 states that challenged the final rule adding gender identity to the law banning sex discrimination in education.

The state tally rose from 22 to 26 after the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals granted a preliminary injunction late Wednesday blocking the rule from taking effect in Alabama, Georgia, Florida and South Carolina, overturning a lower-court decision from the previous day.

Not that blue states won't be affected. More than 2,000 K-12 schools and 700 colleges, universities and higher-education institutions in at least 45 states have also opted out pending the outcome of litigation under the so-called Moms for Liberty loophole.

Despite the courtroom victories, foes of the Title IX rule aren't celebrating.

They warned that the Biden administration's overhaul will jeopardize women's safety, privacy and opportunities, as men who identify as women are allowed access to women's locker rooms, restrooms, sports, and other sex-segregated spaces.

Sen. Tommy Tuberville, Alabama Republican, called it a "sad day for our country when it comes to sports."

"Starting [Thursday], girls will be forced to share locker rooms with boys," he said on a press call organized by the Independent Women's Forum. "They're going to lose scholarships to boys. Girls could be in harm's way, as we've seen with boxing this week in the Olympics."

He referred to the International Olympic Committee's decision to allow two boxers to compete against women despite being disqualified from the women's world championships last year for failing gender tests.

The courtroom defeats may have put a damper on the administration's

celebration of its sweeping Title IX overhaul, but the Department of Education doggedly defended the final rule.

"Title IX prohibits sex discrimination in a federally funded educational environment," a department spokesperson said.

"The Department crafted the final Title IX regulations following a rigorous process to realize the nondiscrimination mandate of Title IX. The Department stands by the final Title IX regulations released in April 2024, and we will continue to fight for every student," the spokesperson said.

The department has asked the courts to allow part of the final rule to take effect, namely the sections walking back the Trump-era guardrails on due process in adjudicating campus sexual assault and harassment allegations.

"While the appeals of previous rulings are pending, we have asked the trial courts to allow the unchallenged provisions — the bulk of the final rule — to take effect in these states as scheduled, on Aug. 1," the spokesperson told The Washington Times.

Sen. Cynthia Lummis, Wyoming Republican, said she worried about the rule's impact on students and faculty who misgender others by using their incorrect pronouns, saying such behavior will now constitute sexual harassment.

"This is the Biden-Harris administration going way too far," Ms. Lummis said. "This is corrupting the moral normal of the United States."

House Republicans have fought the rule by passing the Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act, which would bar transgender athletes from female sports, and a resolution to overturn the Title IX rule, but Senate Democrats have stymied the bills.

"While we're having trouble with legislative efforts to protect women and sports — we've been thwarted there, the committee has been vindicated by the courts," said Rep. Virginia Foxx, North Carolina Republican and House Education and the Workforce Committee chairwoman.

## CONSERVATIVES

# Conservative watchdog launches Hate Map to document left-leaning 'political violence'

By **SEAN SALAI**  
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Antisemitic rhetoric and vandalism at pro-life pregnancy centers are among left-leaning political violence tracked by a Hate Map that a conservative civil liberties group launched this week.

The right-leaning New Tolerance Campaign said it created the interactive website for journalists, academics and public officials as "a comprehensive resource documenting instances of political violence perpetrated by leftist organizations across the United States."

The map lists 184 examples of anti-Jewish incidents, "radical LGBTQ activism," environmental or animal rights agitation and "general political violence" from leftist protest groups such as Antifa. NTC officials said they will update it regularly with the names and locations of those responsible for future incidents.

"Hate in America can't be addressed unless all hate is addressed," Gregory T. Angelo, NTC's president, said in an email. "It will be an ongoing project."

Mr. Angelo said the map counters the left-leaning Southern Poverty Law Center's Hate Map, which NTC officials view as a partisan effort to help Democrats defeat Republicans in November's election.

Conservatives have long accused the SPLC Hate Map of unfairly labeling conservative advocacy groups as "White supremacists" while ignoring a rising tide of deadly protests, vandalism, physical assaults, threats and intimidation from the left.

The Washington Times has reached out to the SPLC for comment.

As of Thursday, the SPLC Hate Map listed 1,430 examples of "hate and anti-government extremist groups" in 2023 that it said "comprise the

organizational infrastructure upholding white supremacy in the U.S."

"In 2023, those opposing inclusive democracy worked to legitimize insurrection, paint hate as virtuous and transform false conspiracy theories into truth — all in preparation for one of the most significant elections in U.S. history," the SPLC website states. "The report chronicles trends in hard-right activity, not simply as a reality check, but as a tool to act alongside those working to prevent radicalization and counter white supremacy, disinformation and false conspiracies in 2024."

The SPLC Hate Map flags conservative parental rights groups such as Moms for Liberty alongside explicitly racist organizations such as the Ku Klux Klan.

By contrast, the NTC Hate Map includes the radical pro-choice group Jane's Revenge. An arm of the anti-fascist and anti-racist protest group Antifa, Jane's Revenge has claimed credit for arson and vandalism attacks on pro-life pregnancy resource centers in recent years.

On July 25, four Florida activists linked to Jane's Revenge agreed to pay restitution and stay 100 feet away from crisis pregnancy centers to settle a state-filed civil lawsuit over their attacks on three pro-life facilities in 2022.

The NTC Hate Map also lists the Council on American-Islamic Relations, which bills itself as the nation's largest Muslim civil rights advocacy group and has criticized the Biden-Harris administration for supporting Israel's military operation in Gaza.

The map points to CAIR national leader Nihad Awad's statement at a conference last November that he was "happy to see" terrorist group Hamas attack Israel on Oct. 7.

That assault killed more than 1,200

Israeli civilians. Palestinian health officials estimate that Israel's response has killed more than 39,000 militants and civilians, a number that can't be independently verified.

"CAIR's antisemitic statements [and] abuses are vast and well-documented," the NTC website states. "While claiming to fight intolerance and bigotry, CAIR produces a great deal of both in their way."

Edward Ahmed Mitchell, CAIR's deputy executive director, pushed back on the list. He pointed to a December statement reaffirming the group's "unequivocal condemnation of both antisemitism and attacks on Israeli civilians on October 7th."

"This website and its list are too silly to take seriously, but what I will say is that it's a bit amusing to see some conservative activists suddenly embrace the notion that speech they find objectionable is equivalent to an act of violence," Mr. Mitchell said in an email.

Mr. Angelo, a former head of the conservative LGBTQ group Log Cabin Republicans, became NTC's first president in May 2021.

Ad Fontes Media, a for-profit company that rates the bias of more than 3,000 multimedia news sources, rates the Southern Poverty Law Center as "skews left" with "generally reliable" analysis.

Vanessa Otero, the CEO of Ad Fontes, said she plans to rate the NTC website "in the coming weeks."

"In our evaluation of other sites, we find that when a publication or organization explicitly states that it intends to watch one political side in particular, it tends to have noticeable bias to the other side," Ms. Otero said. "You can see this with organizations such as SPLC or Right Wing Watch on the left or Media Research Center on the right."



More than 300 video game performers walk the picket line Thursday during the SAG-AFTRA video game strike at Warner Bros. Games headquarters in Burbank, California, after contract talks broke down over artificial intelligence protections.

## LABOR

# Hollywood's video game performers protest studios' unregulated usage of AI

By **SARAH PARVINI AND KAITLYN HUAMANI**  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

**LOS ANGELES** | More than 300 video game performers and Hollywood actors picketed the Warner Bros. Studios building Thursday to protest what they call an unwillingness from top gaming companies to protect union voice actors and motion capture workers equally against the unregulated use of artificial intelligence.

Standing before the crowd, Duncan Crabtree-Ireland, national executive director of the Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists, said that AI has become the most challenging issue in many of the union's negotiations.

"We've made deals with the studios and streamers. We've made deals without a strike with the major record labels and with countless other employers, which provide for informed consent and fair compensation for our members," he told The Associated Press.

"Yet, for some reason, the video

game companies refuse to do that and that's what's going to be their undoing," he said.

The protest marks the first large labor action since SAG-AFTRA game workers voted to strike last week.

The work stoppage came after more than 18 months of negotiations with gaming giants, including divisions of Activision, Warner Bros. and Walt Disney Co., over a new interactive media agreement stalled over protections around the use of AI.

Warner Bros. Games is behind such games as "Hogwarts Legacy" and "Suicide Squad: Kill the Justice League."

"Signs up, games down, LA is a union town," the crowd chanted Thursday morning, many of them holding up signs emblazoned with a fist holding a video game controller.

One man, dressed in a skull mask reminiscent of a "Call of Duty" character named Ghost, waved a poster that read, "Don't ghost us for AI. It's your call of duty to pay actors." The first-person shooter game is published by Activision.

**PUBLIC SAFETY**

# Mother asked officers not to hurt her daughter before fatal shooting

By **JOHN O'CONNOR**  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

**SPRINGFIELD, ILL.** | Two emergency response calls were made from the home of Sonya Massey, the Black woman who was shot in the face by an Illinois sheriff's deputy after she called 911 for help, in the days leading up to her death, according to records released Wednesday.

In a third call, Massey's mother, Donna Massey, reports that her daughter is suffering a "mental breakdown" and tells the dispatcher, "I don't want you guys to hurt her." She adds that she fears the police and asks that no officer who is "prejudiced" be sent.

In the other calls, a woman calling from Sonya Massey's address who doesn't identify herself says people want to hurt her, and a day later, a woman identifying herself as Sonya Massey reports a neighbor had hit her with a brick.

The Sangamon County Sheriff's Office is still trying to determine whether Massey's mental health history was relayed to deputies responding to the



CHICAGO SUN-TIMES VIA ASSOCIATED PRESS

Donna Massey called 911 for help and asked that police not hurt her daughter Sonya, who was later fatally shot. Former sheriff's deputy Sean Grayson, who was fired after the shooting, is charged with first-degree murder in Sonya Massey's death.

call about a suspected prowler, which ended in her death on July 6.

Former sheriff's deputy Sean Grayson, 30, who is White, is charged with

first-degree murder, aggravated battery with a firearm and official misconduct in the shooting death of Massey, 36, in her home. He has pleaded not guilty and is

being held without bail.

Also Wednesday, Sheriff Jack Campbell released Mr. Grayson's personnel file in response to public-records requests, with records leading up to his May 1, 2023, hire to his dismissal July 17, the day he was indicted. It confirms what was previously known, that Sheriff Campbell was aware of Mr. Grayson's two drunken-driving convictions within a year, the first of which led to his premature discharge from the Army.

Sheriff Campbell said DUIs do not disqualify a candidate and that Mr. Grayson's rapid succession of jobs — five in four years before joining the Sangamon department — showed admirable ambition to advance to larger and more structured departments. The sheriff said he knew of no previous discipline problems. References indicating Mr. Grayson needed more training are common for young recruits, and Mr. Grayson later attended 16 weeks of academy training, Sheriff Campbell said.

Mr. Grayson's March 31, 2023, psychological evaluation found him fit to serve

but noted: "He knows he can move too fast at times. He needs to slow down to make good decisions."

Body camera video shows that after checking yards around the home just before 1 a.m. July 6, Massey greeted the deputies at the front door with "Don't hurt me" and repeated, "Please, God." Inside her home, she had trouble finding her ID and asked for her Bible.

Following Mr. Grayson's direction to remove a pot of water from the stove, she unexpectedly said, "I rebuke you in the name of Jesus." Mr. Grayson then pulled his gun and yelled at her to drop the presumably hot water before firing three times, striking her below the left eye.

The personnel file includes the results of the internal investigation that led to Mr. Grayson's dismissal, indicating that he violated rules on use of force and standards of conduct, failed to turn on his body camera or to provide medical aid and insubordination for refusing to answer questions during the investigation's interview even after a superior ordered him to.

**VERMONT**

## Residents begin cleanup after latest round of flooding

**MORGAN** | Vermonters started removing debris and silt from their houses and yards and pulled out damaged goods from homes on Thursday as crews began the process of repairing roads from the latest bout of violent flooding that came just weeks after more widespread flooding in the state.

In Morgan, near the Canadian border, trucks continuously traveled a stretch of closed road delivering dirt and gravel to some heavily damaged roads. The roads with sections washed away were inaccessible by car, leaving some residents stranded.

The flooding early Tuesday morning ripped the ground and road away from around Richard and Patty Morley's house and foundation on Seymour Lake, depositing rocks, silt and debris in their yard and covering their dock. Across the road, Toad Pond Road was crumbled and washed away in parts.

"The water came down Toad Pond

Road off the hill, a mile or two up the road, and a lot of headwater pressure coming down and the streams and culverts couldn't handle it and this is where it ends up," Mr. Morley said.

— Associated Press

**UTAH**

## State's abortion ban to remain blocked

**SALT LAKE CITY** | A near-total abortion ban will remain on hold in Utah after the state Supreme Court ruled Thursday that the law should remain blocked until a lower court can assess its constitutionality.

With the decision, abortion remains legal up to 18 weeks under another state law that has served as a fallback as abortion rights have been thrown into limbo.

The panel wrote in its opinion that the Planned Parenthood Association of Utah had legal standing to challenge the state's abortion trigger law, and that a lower court acted within its purview when it initially blocked the ban.

Their ruling only affects whether the restrictions remain on pause amid

**BRIEFLY**  
THE NATION

further legal proceedings and does not decide the final outcome of abortion policy in the state. The case will now be sent back to a lower court to determine whether the law is constitutional.

— Associated Press

**NEW YORK**

## Two police sergeants shot, both expected to recover

**NEW YORK** | Two New York City police sergeants were shot Thursday as they struggled with a man suspected of sticking up a Manhattan mahjong parlor and stealing women's purses, police said.

One sergeant was hit in the groin and will be kept at a hospital overnight for observation, NYPD Chief of Detectives Joseph Kenny said. The other sustained a graze wound to the leg and would be released later Thursday, he said.

Both sergeants were struck with the

same bullet, Chief Kenny said. They are expected to make a full recovery.

The suspect, identified by police as 22-year-old Joshua Dorsett, was restrained by the wounded sergeants and other officers before being taken to a police station, Chief Kenny said.

No police officers fired at Mr. Dorsett.

— Associated Press

**TRANSPORTATION**

## Ban would stop extra airline charges for kids

The Department of Transportation is proposing a new rule that would ban airlines from charging parents more to sit with their young children.

Under the proposal, released Thursday, U.S. and foreign carriers would be required to seat children 13 or younger next to their parent or accompanying adult for free.

If adjacent seats aren't available when a parent books a flight, airlines would be required to let families choose between a full refund, or waiting to see if a seat opens up. If seats don't become available before other

passengers begin boarding, airlines must give families the option to rebook for free on the next flight with available adjacent seating.

— Associated Press

**GEORGIA**

## Musical gala to celebrate Carter's 100th birthday

**ATLANTA** | Former President Jimmy Carter will be honored next month, ahead of his 100th birthday, with a musical gala at the Fox Theatre in Atlanta, the Carter Center announced Thursday.

The Sept. 17 event — "Jimmy Carter 100: A Celebration in Song" — will feature musicians from a range of genres and celebrity guests. Mr. Carter's birthday is Oct. 1.

Artists include Chuck Leavell, Drive-By Truckers, Maren Morris, Killer Mike and The Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Chamber Chorus.

The 39th president, who served from 1977 to 1981, remains at his home in Plains, where he has been receiving hospice care since February 2023.

— Associated Press



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# World

## NORTH KOREA

# Kim fighting floods amid rumors of health issues

## South Korea's Red Cross expects 'swift response' after humanitarian relief offer

By **ANDREW SALMON**  
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

**SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA** | Defying rumors that have resurfaced in South Korea of ill health, North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has appeared at the heart of rescue efforts in flood-hit provinces.

Photos and footage showed Mr. Kim in a small inflatable boat on floodwaters in an SUV traversing a flooded road and speaking to troops at a military helicopter base.

The country's northeastern province of Pyongan, and the environs of the city of Sinuiju — North Korea's key transport gateway to China — are suffering from serious monsoon flooding after the Yalu River rose precipitously.

According to South Korean media, quoting North Korean state media, some 4,100 households have been flooded out, and military operations have rescued some 4,200 civilians from the disaster zone. Mr. Kim replaced his minister for public security during a Workers Party Politbureau emergency meeting held in Sinuiju earlier this week, the reports stated.

On Thursday, South Korea's Red Cross said it stood ready to provide humanitarian relief and anticipated a "swift response" from the North.

Footage released by state media shows a grim-faced Mr. Kim perched on a small, inflatable boat navigating between half-sunken trees and the thatched roofs of an inundated settlement. Still images showed him gazing out of the window of an SUV up to its axles in water on a partly flooded road; standing on a landing pad being briefed by military officers in front of a large transport helicopter; and waving at a busload of apparently rescued citizens.

Unlike his late father, Kim Jong-il, who was rarely seen in public, the younger Mr. Kim cultivates a much more visible presence.

He frequently appears in public and in media — though normally on upbeat occasions, be it greeting cheering citizens, directing a missile launch or driving a tank. He also offers "on-the-spot guidance" to officials, who scribble their leader's thoughts down in their notebooks.

"He is acting according to the manual: It's a kind of routine behavior and reaction," said Kim Kwang-jin, a North Korean defector who works for the Institute for National Security Strategy, a state-run think tank in Seoul. "In the past, in such emergency cases, he visits places and tries to be seen leading the actions, solving the trouble and demoting aides.



North Korean leader Kim Jong-un inspects a flood-hit area in a small inflatable boat in Sinuiju, North Korea, on Monday. Sinuiju and the province of Pyongan are suffering from monsoon flooding after the Yalu River rose precipitously this week.

It's routine."

The analyst was unconvinced that the North Korean leader was being put at great risk — or suffering great inconvenience.

"You can see that he is wearing a very, very clean white shirt at the flooding disaster scene," he said. "It is like a show to his own people, without sincerity or real emotion."

The images were aired just days after South Korea's National Intelligence Service alleged that Mr. Kim's obesity is generating health problems. On Monday, agents briefed the National Assembly, saying that Mr. Kim is suffering from diabetes and high blood pressure as a result of smoking, drinking and stress.

The issues are compelling handlers to seek foreign-made medication, they said.

Both Mr. Kim's predecessors on the North Korean throne suffered health issues. But rumors of the current leader's ill health, fortified by his periodic disappearances from public view, have circulated multiple times before.

None have had any apparent impact on his governance.

Still, the hefty dictator, who is only 40, was shown in the flood footage being helped down a gentle flight of stone steps to get into the boat.

Also revealed in one still image from the floods was a pack of cigarettes and a glass ashtray placed on a bench beside Mr. Kim in the inflatable boat.

## BRIEFLY THE WORLD

### MILITARY

## Gearbox failure, crew decisions led to fatal Japan Osprey crash

The deadly crash of an Air Force CV-22B Osprey tilt-rotor aircraft off the coast of Japan last year, killing all eight service members aboard, resulted from a "catastrophic failure" of the troubled craft's gearbox and the pilot's decision not to land immediately in response to warnings in the cockpit, Air Force investigators said Thursday.

The Nov. 29 crash near Japan's Yakushima Island led to a months-long grounding of all Osprey aircraft across the military. The Osprey can take off like a helicopter but fly like an airplane. The Osprey was flying out of the Yokota Air Base.

The evidence indicated that the crash was caused by a "catastrophic" failure of the left-hand prop rotor gearbox, investigators said in a report. It created a rapidly cascading failure of the aircraft's drive system that resulted in what investigators said was an "instantaneous asymmetric lift condition" that could not be corrected by the crew, according to the investigation.

— Mike Glenn

### BRITAIN

## Starmer creates police unit after attack sparks rioting

**LONDON** | British Prime Minister Keir Starmer condemned the "tiny mindless minority" behind unrest that has plagued several cities after a horrific stabbing at a children's dance class and vowed to put a stop to it as the 17-year-old suspect was publicly named Thursday in part to counter misinformation blamed as one cause of the fiery clashes.

The newly elected Mr. Starmer said the violence was "clearly driven by far-right hatred" as he announced a plan to enable police to move between communities. Officers will more easily be able to share intelligence and use facial recognition technology and other tools to prevent the kind of outbursts that have sent scores of police to the hospital the past two nights.

"This is not a protest that has got out of hand," Mr. Starmer said. "It is a group of individuals who are absolutely bent on violence."

The announcement came after police in several cities were pelted with bottles by crowds apparently reacting to the suspect behind the Monday attack that killed three and wounded 10 was an immigrant who was in the country illegally.

The teen charged with murdering made his first appearance and was named in court as Axel Rudakubana partly to counter what officials said was misinformation about his identity.

— Associated Press

### VENEZUELA

## U.S. says Gonzalez won election, despite official result

**CARACAS** | The U.S. government on Thursday recognized Venezuelan opposition candidate Edmundo Gonzalez as the winner of the South American country's presidential election, despite official results that declared President Nicolas Maduro the victor.

"Given the overwhelming evidence, it is clear to the United States and, most importantly, to the Venezuelan people that Edmundo Gonzalez Urutia won the most votes in Venezuela's July 28 presidential election," U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said in a statement.

The National Electoral Council declared Mr. Maduro the winner of Sunday's highly anticipated election.

But Mr. Gonzalez, and opposition leader Maria Corina Machado have said they obtained more than two-thirds of the tally sheets that each electronic voting machine printed after polls closed. They said the release of the data on those tallies would prove Mr. Maduro lost.

The announcement from the U.S. government came amid increasing calls for an independent review of the results, according to officials from Brazil and Mexico.

Government officials from Brazil, Colombia and Mexico have been in constant communication with Maduro's administration to convince him that he must show the vote tally sheets from Sunday's election and allow impartial verification, a Brazilian government official told The Associated Press on Thursday.

— Associated Press

## INTELLIGENCE

# Spy agencies prepare to issue internal rules for AI use

By **RYAN LOVELACE**  
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

The U.S. intelligence community is readying new rules for internal usage of artificial intelligence, creating a first directive to govern how spies adopt and deploy the rapidly advancing technology.

John Beiel, the U.S. intelligence community's AI chief, told The Washington Times the directive is still a work in progress focused on such things as the ethical use of AI and ongoing monitoring of models once they are deployed.

Precisely when the rules will be issued is unclear but Mr. Beiel said they are intended to hold up under whoever is in charge of the federal government next year.

"A lot of the things that we're baking into the [intelligence community directive] are good governance practices to have within the [intelligence community], regardless of [the] political landscape," Mr. Beiel said. "We're talking about telling the IC elements that you should have robust tests and evaluation procedures, you should have robust documentation, you should have [standards for] how you accord to civil liberties and privacy."

The group working to craft the rules grew out of a gathering of machine-learning professionals within the spy agencies more than five years ago, according to Mr. Beiel.

In 2024, Mr. Beiel oversees a council of chief AI officers pulled from the U.S. government's 18 separate intelligence

## U.S. intelligence community chief outlines 'team sport' effort in interview

agencies. The resulting group, informally referred to as the "CAIO [pronounced chow] Council," is focused on standardizing rules across the various agencies.

Mr. Beiel said implementing the common set of rules will be a collective effort from a group with differing backgrounds, joking that AI is a "team sport."

"From lawyers to acquisition professionals to policy people to machine-learning researchers and data scientists and things like that, it takes all types," he said.

Mr. Beiel's background separates him from the herd of tech professionals chasing the AI gold rush in top technical schools and Big Tech labs. He is a 30-something graduate of state universities in Pennsylvania and Louisiana and a political scientist by training.

He said his focus on econometrics and statistics led him to study applying machine learning to understand social problems such as protest movements, civil unrest, coups and leadership turnovers in various countries. He said his early machine-learning work helped him forecast violence in Afghanistan down to the province level.

As the American government turns its gaze from the global war on terror to a great-power competition with China and Russia, Mr. Beiel argued that the U.S. is ahead in the global AI race.

"I think we have the strongest research labs, I think we have the strongest

academic ecosystem, I think we are an attractor of talent in this space in many ways," Mr. Beiel said. "When you look at a lot of the folks that are leaders in the AI-machine learning space at places like OpenAI and Anthropic, they often come from other countries and have come here to America to work on these problems. That's because of the strength of our ecosystem."

Measuring an AI advantage is a problem no one has completely solved. Mr. Beiel acknowledged that assessing an AI advantage is difficult because things can shift very quickly in the world of software as compared to the physical world of manufacturing and engineering.

"Where one side has an advantage one day, another can have an advantage the next, right?" he said. "So caveat all this with, compared to our adversaries, saying [we are ahead] is not something that I think we can kind of rest on our laurels about."

He pointed to Silicon Valley and failed efforts to replicate it as an example of America's exceptional relationship between government, academia and private industry. He said government spending provides "very important risk capital" driving the growth of new tech.

Some of the AI advantage metrics are more subjective, such as adherence to norms and values regarding freedom of speech and transparency.

"If you're a researcher in an



John Beiel, the U.S. intelligence community's AI chief, said a new directive on how spy agencies adopt and govern the technology is still a work in progress.

authoritarian country and you're focusing on making sure your models don't spit out some piece of information that would be offensive to your government, that will slow you down," Mr. Beiel said. "And that is a very hard research problem in and of itself."

Many Americans, however, have begun questioning whether Big Tech is working to ensure its algorithms do not surface certain answers in response to political questions. Google and Meta this week said their systems that excluded former President Donald Trump from search results and restricted his image on social media platforms were technical blunders and not human errors driven by political bias.

## MIDDLE EAST

# Hezbollah leader says conflict with Israel in 'new phase'

By **ABBY SEWELL**  
AND **KAREEM CHEHAYEB**  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

**BEIRUT** | Hezbollah's leader warned Thursday that the conflict with Israel has entered a "new phase," as he addressed mourners at the funeral of a commander from the group who was killed by an Israeli airstrike this week in Beirut.

Meanwhile in Tehran, Iran's supreme leader prayed over the body of Hamas' political leader, who was killed in a presumed Israeli assassination.

The back-to-back killings have increased fears of an escalation into a wider war, leaving the region waiting to see how Iran and ally Hezbollah will respond. Iran has vowed retaliation against Israel for the strike that killed Hamas political leader Ismail Haniyeh on Wednesday in the Iranian capital of Tehran.

Israel has not claimed responsibility for Haniyeh's assassination, but comments by Israeli military spokesman

Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari stopped short of an outright denial.

"There was no additional airstrike, not a missile and not an Israeli drone, in the entire Middle East that night," he said Thursday, fueling speculation that Israel could have used other means to kill the Hamas official who was playing a key role in Qatar-based talks on an Israeli-Palestinian cease-fire and hostage release plan in Gaza.

Israel did confirm it carried out the strike Tuesday in Beirut that killed Hezbollah commander Fouad Shukur, along with an Iranian military adviser and at least five civilians. Israel said Shukur was behind a rocket attack days earlier that hit a soccer field in the Israeli-held Golan Heights, killing 12 children. Hezbollah denied being behind that strike, a denial that Mr. Nasrallah reiterated.

In a speech via video link to mourners gathered with Shukur's coffin in an auditorium in a Beirut suburb, Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah said the clash

with Israel has "entered a new phase that is different from the previous period."

"Do they expect that Hajj Ismail Haniyeh will be killed in Iran and Iran will remain silent?" he said of the Israelis. Addressing Israelis who celebrated the two killings, he said, "Laugh a bit and you will cry a lot."

But as he often does, Nasrallah kept his comments vague, vowing a "very-well studied retaliation" without saying what form it would take. He said only that Israel "will have to wait for the anger of the region's honorable people."

International officials have been scrambling to avert a cycle of retaliation before it spirals into a greater war. Since Israel declared war on Hamas in October, Hezbollah and Israel have traded fire almost daily across the border in exchanges that have caused deaths and the evacuation of tens of thousands from their homes. But they have also stayed within limits.

Several times, strikes that appeared

to cross red lines raised fears of an acceleration into full-fledged war, but outside diplomacy reined in the two sides. Hezbollah, a Shiite movement that boasts a powerful, well-equipped military arm, faces strong pressure not to draw Lebanon into a repeat of the militant group's 2006 war with Israel, which wreaked heavy death and destruction in the country.

Israel and Iran risked plunging into war earlier this year when Israel hit Iran's embassy in Damascus in April. Iran retaliated, and Israel countered in an unprecedented exchange of strikes on each other's soil, but international efforts succeeded in containing that cycle before it spun out of control.

An unusual relative calm prevailed Thursday on the Lebanon-Israel border. Hezbollah claimed no rocket launches into Israel during the day. The Lebanese state news agency said a strike hit the house of a Syrian family in a southern Lebanese town, killing at least four people and wounding several others.

## OLYMPICS

From page A1

women don't want to be punched in the face by a male as the world watches and applauds."

The Italian boxer declined to shake Khelif's hand after her defeat was announced, then fell to her knees in the ring and began to cry. The images sparked a strong reaction in her home country, including a critical comment from conservative Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, who told reporters that the match "did not seem on equal footing."

"Athletes who have male genetic characteristics should not be admitted to female competitions," Meloni said.

The question of transgender competitors in women's events has roiled the American sports scene for years. As it turns out, however, Thursday's controversy may be more of a Caster Semenya than a Lia Thomas situation.

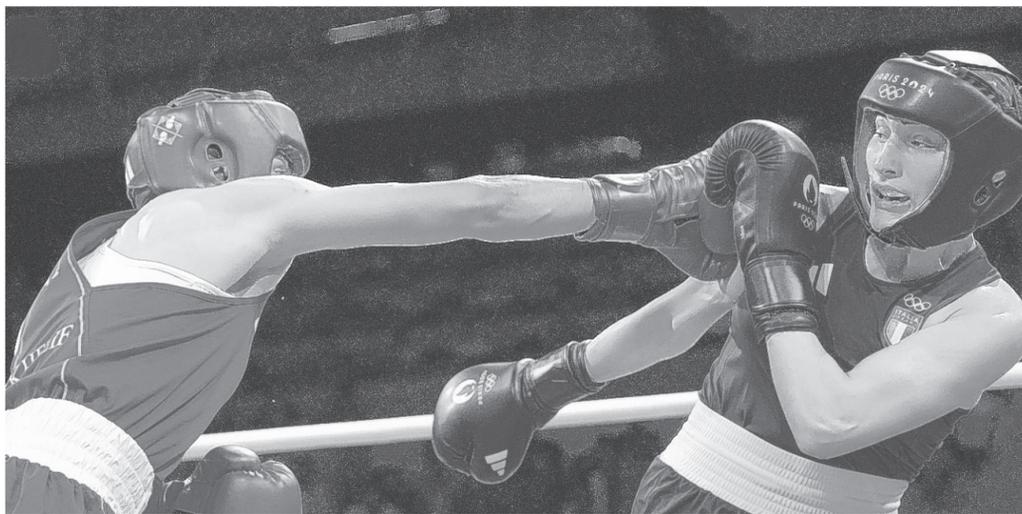
Algerian Football Media compared Khelif to the runner Semenya, a two-time Olympic gold medalist who unsuccessfully challenged the 2018 World Athletics restrictions on athletes with a "Difference of Sexual Development" known as 46, XY from elite women's meets.

Individuals with 46, XY DSD are often born with ambiguous genitalia and raised as girls, but they have internal testes, and in their teen years, undergo male puberty.

IOC spokesperson Mark Adams insisted at Thursday's press conference that "this is not a transgender issue."

"I know you know that, but I think there has been some misreporting on this," Adams said. "I think it's very important to say that this is not a transgender issue. These women have been competing in competitions for many years."

But complaints about runners in the female category who had apparently undergone male puberty prompted World



Algeria's Imane Khelif (left) punches Italy's Angela Carini in their women's preliminary boxing match Thursday at the Olympics. After the punch, Carini conceded 46 seconds into the match, causing an uproar as Khelif had failed a previous gender test.

Athletics to implement rules requiring such athletes to keep their testosterone in serum under set limits for at least 24 months before competition.

The International Boxing Association said Wednesday it disqualified Khelif and Lin from last year's Women's World Championships for failing sex tests that were not based on testosterone levels.

"Point to note, the athletes did not undergo a testosterone examination but were subject to a separate and recognized test, whereby the specifics remain confidential," the association said. "This test conclusively indicated that both athletes did not meet the required necessary eligibility criteria and were found to have competitive advantages over other female competitors."

The association's president told the Russian news agency Tass last year that the two athletes took DNA tests and "it was proven that they have XY

chromosomes."

Last year, however, the IOC banished the IBA as the sport's governing body over judging integrity and financial issues, replacing it with the Paris 2024 Boxing Unit, an ad hoc committee with no clear gender policy.

In its statement Thursday, the IOC criticized the association's decision to disqualify the athletes, blaming the move for fueling the "aggression against these two athletes."

"The current aggression against these two athletes is based entirely on this arbitrary decision, which was taken without any proper procedure — especially considering that these athletes had been competing in top-level competitions for many years," the statement said. "Such an approach is contrary to good governance."

The Algerian Olympic and Sports Committee denounced Wednesday what

it called the "lies" and "malicious and unethical attacks directed against our distinguished athlete, Imane Khelif, by certain foreign media."

"These attempts at defamation, based on lies, are completely unfair, especially at a crucial time when she is preparing for the Olympic Games, the peak of her career," the statement said. "The COA has taken all necessary measures to protect our champion."

Advocates for women's sports said the situation could be resolved if the IOC would mandate gender-verification testing, a requirement that was dropped at the 2000 Sydney Olympics and opened the door to transgender athletes in the women's category.

In 2021, the IOC reacted to criticism over Hubbard's participation in women's weightlifting by placing the international sports governing bodies in charge of their own transgender-eligibility criteria.

"Each sport needs to deal with its issues," Adams said. "They know their sports and their disciplines the best, and you need to tailor the testing and so on."

He also made it clear that the IOC has no intention of resuming gender-verification testing.

"I think we're all agreed, I hope we're all agreed, that we're not calling for people to go back to the bad old days of sex testing, which was a terrible, terrible thing to do," he said. "I'm sure we're all agreed that is not the way forward in this situation."

Carini declined to weigh in on the controversy, saying that "I am not here to judge or pass judgment."

"If an athlete is this way, and in that sense it's not right or it is right, it's not up to me to decide," she said. "I just did my job as a boxer. I got into the ring and fought. I did it with my head held high and with a broken heart for not having finished the last kilometer."

But Italian sports officials were more ambivalent.

Italian boxing coach Emanuele Renzini said Carini had been given the option of not competing against her Algerian rival, the Reuters news agency reported.

"But she told me, 'No, this is my Olympics, I struggled to be here, I want to fight for my medal'. So she was very determined to do it. I supported her. I didn't imagine such an outcome."

But Italian Family and Equal Opportunities Minister Eugenia Roccella said in a statement it was "surprising that there are no certain, strict, uniform criteria at the international level, and that there can be a suspicion, and far more than a suspicion, of an unfair and potentially dangerous contest for one of the contenders at the Olympics, an event that symbolizes sporting fairness."

Lin is scheduled to fight Friday against Uzbekistan's Sitora Turdibekova after receiving a first-round bye.

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

## BUDGET

From page A1

"The first programs to go are typically the humanities, especially the arts and foreign language, because they tend to be the programs with the least number of students majoring in them," said Anna Sillers, a data analyst specializing in college spending at the American Council of Trustees and Alumni, a liberal arts advocacy group.

Several public colleges have closed their diversity, equity and inclusion offices to head off Republican-led reductions in state funds. On Tuesday, the flagship University of Missouri at Columbia became the latest to eliminate a DEI office and administrator job.

The moves have sparked pushback on some campuses where unionized employees have threatened to walk out as students return to classes in a few weeks.

At Western Illinois University in Macomb, members of the WIU Chapter of the University Professionals of Illinois Local 4100 plan to march Tuesday at a board meeting where trustees will present their proposal to cut humanities courses.

"We're trying to save WIU," Merrill Cole, a queer studies professor and the union's president, said in an email. "We are concerned that after approving deficit budgets for five years, the WIU Board of Trustees has decided to attempt to balance the budget in six months, without sufficient attention to the damage being done to the institution and without fully accounting for the losses in revenue their speedy and ill-advised cuts will cost."

WIU spokesperson Alisha Looney said in an email that the school is doing what is necessary "to evolve and innovate

by attracting new markets of students."

"Like many institutions across the country, Western Illinois University is adapting institutional expenditures, operations, services, and staffing to reflect the changing population and student needs," Ms. Looney said.

According to the Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics, the U.S. has 1,754 private non-profit colleges and 1,892 public colleges.

Hundreds of others have closed or merged in recent years, with the pace accelerating this year as federal pandemic relief funding expired.

Gary Stocker, who founded College Viability to evaluate campuses' financial stability, estimates that 40 out of 200 struggling private colleges will close in the 2024-25 academic year even after cutting their budgets. He expects the closings to displace 40,000 to 50,000 students.

"The rate of closures will [at least double] this fall and into next spring," said Mr. Stocker, a former chief of staff at private Westminster College in Missouri. "The financial outlook does not get any better until there is more of an equilibrium between the supply of college seats and the demand for those seats."

He noted in an email that poorly endowed liberal arts schools with high acceptance rates, low graduation rates and high tuition discounts are the most likely to shutter.

### Declining markets

According to campus insiders, administrators often delay budget cut announcements until summer vacation to minimize faculty and student pushback. Other recent cutbacks include:

- At the end of May, the private arts school Columbia College Chicago announced it would lay off 70 staff

members and administrators and purge another 32 vacant positions out of 1,410 employees.

- Mount Holyoke College, a private women's school in Massachusetts, said it would no longer sponsor its winning tennis team due to a need to reallocate funding.

- The public University of Lynchburg in Virginia cut 40 staff members in June and pledged to lay off another 40 faculty members over the next three years as it closes 12 undergraduate and five graduate programs.

- Private Lindenwood University in Missouri eliminated 14 employees and several vacant positions as part of a move to cut 10% of its budget.

- Talladega College, a historically Black private school in Alabama, said on July 12 that it would dismantle its gymnastics program after one season due to a lack of resources.

- The public University of North Carolina System Board of Governors last week approved a sweeping elimination of low-enrollment liberal arts degrees at UNC Asheville and UNC Greensboro. The cuts include drama, philosophy, religious studies, French and German at UNC Asheville, and anthropology, physics and religious studies at UNC Greensboro.

Meanwhile, employers in recent years have removed four-year degree requirements for jobs that traditionally drew liberal arts graduates. Studies show a growing share of emerging tech industry careers will also not require the degrees.

College officials said their cutbacks have targeted staff and programs that served declining shares of students.

Brandeis University cited graduate program enrollment declines for its cutbacks before fall classes start.

"Brandeis is addressing both long-term budget challenges and long-term structural issues," said spokesperson Julie Jette. "Some changes going forward will involve greater academic and administrative collaborations and more sharing of university resources."

In Chicago, federal data shows Columbia College's enrollment dropped from 12,127 students in fall 2009 to 6,646 in fall 2022. The school's most popular majors traditionally included visual and performing arts, communication and English.

"To address challenges it faces, Columbia is changing its structure and offerings to better fuel student success and meet employer expectations," the college said in an email.

University of Lynchburg spokesperson Heather Bradley said an internal review found 95% of all students concentrated in 21 majors. Of the other 31 majors the school offered, including recently purged programs in music and diversity strategies, some had just one or two students.

"This is not sustainable, nor is it responsible," Ms. Bradley said.

Adam Norris, a spokesperson for the public University of New Orleans, said "several consecutive years of enrollment declines" made cuts necessary after the school exhausted its \$4.5 million in COVID-19 relief funds.

"Federal pandemic aid helped the university fill the gaps in recent years, but that aid is gone," Mr. Norris said. "So now the university must right-size its budget and align its expenses with its revenues."

### Mounting debt

Other factors hurting four-year colleges include surging trade school enrollments over the past year. Higher

education groups say high school graduates in sparsely populated rural areas have become less likely to sign up for bachelor's programs at nonselective schools as they have considered the alternatives.

"There's a lot of concern these days about student debt loads and more students are going to be looking at the return on investment," said Tom Harnisch, vice president for government relations at the State Higher Education Executive Officers Association, which represents state agencies overseeing public colleges. "Inflation has gone down recently, but that's a factor as well."

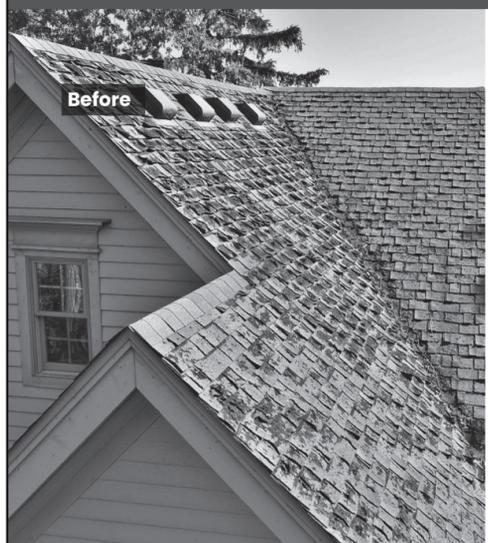
According to conservative analysts, many rural families have been turned off by coursework in race and gender ideology that mocks their values without leading to a good job.

"As higher education has gravitated towards [liberal ideology], a great many students have looked elsewhere for what they should do after high school," said Peter Wood, president of the right-leaning National Association of Scholars and a former associate provost at private Boston University.

Conservatives have also flagged inefficiencies in the federal student loan system and decades of administrative hiring outpacing enrollment growth.

"One hopes that any colleges making cuts will focus on administrative bloat and the programs with the worst outcomes for students," said Michael Brickman, an adjunct fellow specializing in higher education at the American Enterprise Institute. "Unfortunately, few colleges are held accountable for such results and instead may be incentivized to preserve cheap-to-administer programs that do not necessarily serve students well."

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# Region

## VIRGINIA

### Recount to settle tight Republican primary Challenger McGuire narrowly beat Good

By OLIVIA DIAZ  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

**GOOCHLAND** | A Republican primary recount was being held Thursday to settle whether John McGuire, a state senator backed by former President Donald Trump, narrowly defeated incumbent U.S. Rep. Bob Good, a conservative who chairs the conservative House Freedom Caucus.

The recount of the election for the seat representing Virginia's 5th Congressional District comes after elections officials certified that Mr. McGuire won by 374 votes out of nearly 63,000 ballots cast, or six-tenths of a percentage point.



McGuire



Good

Elections officials have said they are confident in the result, but Mr. Good filed a recount petition in Goochland Circuit Court, claiming voting irregularities in Lynchburg. "I think conservatives across the country and the commonwealth want to make sure this result is accurate and reflects the true intent of all the voters in this election," Mr. Good said after a

mid-July hearing where the recount was scheduled.

Mr. Good was able to seek a recount because Mr. McGuire's victory margin was less than one percentage point. But his campaign must pay for it since the margin is greater than half a percentage point.

A three-judge panel was overseeing the recount, which was continue until all the ballots are tallied. Chief Judge Claude Worrell II estimated last month that it would cost \$96,500, though that amount could change.

"It's not likely to be thrilling — this is no TV drama," said Brad Marrs, a Richmond-area attorney representing Mr. Good. "It is a slow process, but it will end."

At one of the congressional district's recount centers, election workers dutifully tallied votes while sitting at folding tables inside a Goochland County gymnasium. Two alternate workers sat in the bleachers along the perimeter.

Officials there estimated they had recounted about two-thirds of their ballots before pausing for lunch at about 11:30.

Bob Walker, a member of the Goochland electoral board who coordinated the recount, said officials had yet to find a contested ballot.

"Nope, none so far," he said.

Mr. Walker said it was tough to organize the recount, coordinating with the circuit court and registrar's office. But on Thursday, he was happy to watch the recount go smoothly, he said.

"I thoroughly enjoy working the election," Mr. Walker said. "The recount is part of the whole process."

Mr. Good, who has served in Congress since 2021, was one of eight House Republicans who voted to oust fellow GOP Rep. Kevin McCarthy as speaker in October.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nearly six dozen people allege they were sexually abused as children while housed in detention centers such as the state-run Loysville Youth Development Center in Loysville, Pennsylvania. The group has filed suit in state or federal court against 10 centers.

## PENNSYLVANIA

### Dozens allege they were sexually abused at juvenile detention centers

By MICHAEL RUBINKAM  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

A group of nearly 70 people alleged Wednesday they were sexually abused as children while housed in detention centers in Pennsylvania, adding to earlier lawsuits targeting what the accusers' lawyers say is the state's broken juvenile justice system.

The latest group of plaintiffs filed suit in state or federal court against 10 different juvenile centers in Pennsylvania, three of them state-operated.

Some of the plaintiffs said they were repeatedly raped by staff members and threatened with harm if they reported it. Others said their reports of sexual abuse were ignored. None of the centers protected the children in their care, lawyers said.

The detention centers' operators "put profit ahead of the safety of children," attorney Jerome Block told The Associated Press. "Many of these juvenile facilities where the sexual abuse occurred remain open, and we have seen no evidence that the inadequate procedures and policies that enabled the sexual abuse have been fixed."

Twenty-two of the accusers were housed at Merakey USA's Northwestern Academy outside Shamokin, which closed in 2016. One man says he was

raped by two staff members at Northwestern in 2004, when he was 13 years old, and he was told he wouldn't be able to go home if he reported it.

Merakey, a large provider of developmental, behavioral health and education services with more than 8,000 employees in a dozen states, "allowed Northwestern Academy's culture of sexual abuse and brutality to continue unabated until the facility's closure in 2016," lawyers wrote.

The Lafayette Hills, Pennsylvania-based company said Wednesday that it couldn't comment on the lawsuit's allegations until it had a chance to review them.

"Merakey closed Northwestern Academy ... as part of our organization's strong belief that children do better in family and community-based settings than in institutional settings," the company said in a statement.

Twenty of the accusers were housed at the state-run Loysville Youth Development Center, South Mountain Secure Treatment Unit near Gettysburg and North Central Secure Treatment Unit in Danville.

The state Department of Human Services said it can't comment on pending litigation. Spokesperson Brandon Cwalina said the department has "zero-tolerance towards abuse and harassment, and we take seriously our responsibility to protect

the health and safety of children at licensed facilities." He said all of the department's juvenile justice facilities are required to be audited once every three years.

Other lawsuits named a facility run by Villanova-based Devereux Advanced Behavioral Health; the Delaware County Juvenile Detention Center; the Archdiocese of Philadelphia's St. Gabriel's Hall in Audubon, which closed in 2020; Carson Valley Children's Aid in Flourtown, which shuttered its residential care program last month; Presbyterian Children's Village in Rosemont, which closed after a 2019 merger; and a now-shuttered detention center in Franklin.

It was operated by VisionQuest National Ltd. of Tucson, Arizona.

Delaware County said it had not been formally served and does not discuss pending litigation. Spokesperson Ryan Herlinger said a 10-member oversight board was created in 2021 and is working to implement juvenile justice reforms, including an expansion of services and alternatives to detention. "The county remains steadfast in its commitment to justice and accountability," he said.

Gemma Services, the successor organization of Presbyterian Children's Village, is facing accusations over what lawyers called "the abusive and predatory behavior" of the Presbyterian staff.

## DISTRICT

### Authorities transfer infamous D.C. crack cocaine kingpin Edmond to halfway house

By MATT DELANEY  
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Federal officials confirmed Thursday that Rayful Edmond III, the prolific drug dealer who helped fuel D.C.'s crack cocaine epidemic in the 1980s, has been transferred to a halfway house.

A Bureau of Prisons spokesman said Edmond was moved this week to a "community confinement" facility that is being overseen by the Nashville Residential Reentry Management Office.

Community confinement is either a home confinement or a halfway house, but the BOP said "we do not specify an individual's specific location while in community confinement."

The 59-year-old Edmond came back on the public radar when a video of him exclaiming "I'm back, better than ever" circulated Wednesday on social media.

Edmond was sentenced to life without parole in 1989 after he was convicted of federal drug crimes.

He continued to sell drugs while behind bars in a federal prison in Pennsylvania until he was caught in 1994.

That's when Edmond became an informant.

Prosecutors said he helped authorities arrest and convict more than 100 drug dealers for nearly two decades. He helped police close 20 unsolved homicide investigations as well.

Edmond was credited for time served in 2021 after a D.C. federal judge reduced his life sentence down to 20 years because of the "unparalleled magnitude" of the former kingpin's cooperation.

His full 30-year sentence in Pennsylvania related to his prison drug offenses began immediately after that decision.

Last month, a federal judge in Pennsylvania denied Edmond's request to reduce his sentence in light of his extensive cooperation.

The District's bustling drug trade saw Edmond move close to 400 pounds of cocaine into the nation's capital each week, according to court documents.

He's thought to have controlled nearly 60% of the local crack cocaine market from 1985 to 1989.

The cheap, smokable form of cocaine led to crippling addiction among users and fierce competition among rival dealers. Skyrocketing homicides followed crack's arrival to the city, and the District soon became known as the nation's "murder capital."

Edmond was never convicted of a violent crime, but authorities said his hired muscle was tied to almost 30 slayings throughout the District.

## BRIEFLY THE REGION

### VIRGINIA

STERLING

#### Ammonia leak hospitalizes 33 at prepared-meal factory

An ammonia leak at a commercial food preparation facility in Virginia sent 33 people to the hospital, authorities said Thursday.

The leak at the Cuisine Solutions plant in Sterling on Wednesday evening was caused by a failed valve, the Loudoun County Combined Fire and Rescue System said in a written statement. A hazardous response team donned protective gear and shut off the valve, authorities said.

The company said in a written statement Thursday that the leak happened outside the building and was contained within an hour.

Of the 33 who were hospitalized, 22 were initially in serious condition, while 11 more had minor symptoms, fire officials said. Cuisine Solutions said Thursday that all of the hospitalized employees had been released with the exception of four, who were still under observation.

Ammonia can cause respiratory issues and skin burns.

— Associated Press

### WEST VIRGINIA

CLARKSBURG

#### Inmate gets 4 years for aiding fatal attack on mobster Bulger

An inmate was sentenced to more than four years Thursday for his role in the 2018 fatal bludgeoning of notorious Boston gangster James "Whitey" Bulger in a troubled West Virginia federal prison.

Massachusetts gangster Paul J. DeCologero was sentenced in federal court after pleading guilty to an assault charge. He could have faced up to 10 years in prison.

DeCologero was already serving a 25-year sentence handed down in 2006 for buying heroin used to try to kill a teenage girl.

Prosecutors initially had said DeCologero and inmate Fotios "Freddy" Geas used a lock attached to a belt to repeatedly hit the 89-year-old Bulger in the head hours after he arrived at USP Hazelton from a lockup in Florida.

But on Thursday, both prosecutors and the defense said DeCologero only served as a lookout and did not hit Bulger. DeCologero, 50, declined to speak when given the opportunity to address the court.

— Associated Press

### PENNSYLVANIA

HARRISBURG

#### State Supreme Court agrees to review suicide ruling

The Pennsylvania Supreme Court has agreed to hear an appeal from the family of a Philadelphia woman whose 2011 stabbing death was initially ruled a homicide before the medical examiner switched it to suicide after police objected.

First grade teacher Ellen Greenberg, 27, was found in her apartment with 20 stab wounds. Police considered her death a suicide because her apartment door was locked from the inside and her boyfriend — who said he found her after breaking down the door — had no defensive wounds.

Philadelphia Medical Examiner Marlon Osbourne initially ruled her death a homicide, noting the large number of stab wounds, including 10 to the back of her neck. After police publicly challenged the findings, Mr. Osbourne switched the ruling to suicide without explanation.

— Associated Press

## PENNSYLVANIA

### Ex-leaders of fraternity where pledge died plead guilty to misdemeanors

By MARK SCOLFORO  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

**HARRISBURG, PA.** | The former president and vice president of a Penn State fraternity where pledge Timothy Piazza fell and later died after consuming a large amount of alcohol seven years ago have pleaded guilty to misdemeanors.

Brendan Young, 28, who was president of the now defunct chapter of Beta Theta Pi in 2017, and Daniel Casey, 27,

who was vice president and pledge master, both pleaded guilty to hazing and reckless endangerment during a proceeding via video streaming in Centre County court on Tuesday. Sentencing will be in October.

Pennsylvania Attorney General Michelle Henry issued a statement "recognizing the tragic loss of life and resulting devastation for Mr. Piazza's family and friends."

Mr. Young and Mr. Casey pleaded

guilty to 14 counts of hazing and a single count of reckless endangerment regarding Piazza.

Mr. Young's defense lawyer, Julian Allatt, declined comment on the pleas. A phone message seeking comment was left Wednesday for Mr. Casey's lawyer, Steven Trialonis.

Piazza, a 19-year-old engineering student from Lebanon, New Jersey, and 13 other pledges were seeking to join the fraternity the night he consumed at least

18 drinks in less than two hours.

Security camera footage documented Piazza's excruciating final hours, including a fall down the basement steps that required others to carry him back upstairs. He exhibited signs of severe pain as he spent the night on a first-floor couch.

Help was called the next morning. Piazza suffered severe head and abdominal injuries and died at a hospital.

Jim Piazza, Timothy Piazza's father,

told the Centre Daily Times after the plea hearing that he was relieved the criminal proceedings are nearly over.

"We are happy that the defendants finally admitted to both hazing and recklessly endangering our son," he told the paper. "While none of this brings him back, it does begin to give us some closure."

At one point, more than two dozen fraternity members had faced a variety of charges in the case.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 2, 2024

The Washington Times

SECTION B

By Sen. Bill Hagerty

## Democrats' latest bonfire of institutions: Court-packing camouflage

*If you can't win the game, change the rules*

Apparently not satisfied with the efficacy of their norm-shattering use of government power through the courts to take down their campaign opponent before the election, we are again witnessing a full onslaught by the Democrats against the Supreme Court.

On Monday, President Biden proposed radical "reforms" — quickly endorsed by Vice President Kamala Harris, the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee — that would achieve the end of court packing, simply by other means.

The damage to America's constitutional system, the greatest the world has ever known, would be irreparable.

Democrats' latest escalation against the high court follows Sen. Charles E. Schumer's 2020 threat that justices would "pay the price" for certain rulings, which precipitated unprecedented intimidation at the justices' homes, including an assassination attempt in 2022. Earlier this month, Mr. Biden openly threatened the court over disagreements with its decisions.

The first Biden-Harris proposal is Supreme Court term limits. This would upend the independence of the court established by the framers. Our founders deliberately shielded justices from the external influences of election, removal or post-judicial career prospects. They thought judges should be free to focus only on the law without fear of consequence or retribution.

This is court packing by replacement — the first three justices on the chopping block are naturally Republican appointees.

Ignoring the court's unanimously adopted code of conduct, Mr. Biden and Ms. Harris' second proposal is a "binding code of conduct" system under which a third-party panel could force justices off cases if the panel deems it necessary.

This outside entity would use subjective assessments to determine whether justices or their families have conflicts of interest. These assessments would be politicized immediately.

This isn't theoretical. Just this year, House and Senate Democrats demanded that Justice Samuel A. Alito be recused from cases because his wife flew a previously noncontroversial flag outside their home.

The flag in question was a patriotic flag emblazoned with the Revolutionary War slogan "Appeal to Heaven" that also flew outside San Francisco City Hall for 60 years until this past May, when someone presumably whispered to the mayor that it was a tool in the Alito recusal campaign.

The group appointed to decide which



ILLUSTRATION BY LINAS GARSYS

justices to disqualify in which cases would be inundated with similar fabricated pressure campaigns targeted at justices whose disqualification in key cases would temporarily tailor the court's membership to the left's agenda.

If the disqualification police failed to disqualify the right justices, Democrats would then cancel them too and push to replace them with another regime that would get the job done.

This proposal amounts to court-packing by elimination.

Aside from these proposals being unconstitutional, allowing another branch to force a change in the judicial branch's membership to manipulate its rulings would destroy the court's independence and the impartial rule of law.

So why are Democrats proposing to torch our constitutional system?

Setting aside the false pretense of misleading and debunked ethics allegations and made-up flag controversies, the real reason is that some of the judicial branch's recent rulings don't align with Democrats' policy goals. Period.

If you can't win the game, change the rules.

While the Biden-Harris announcement ironically claims that these proposals would "strengthen American democracy and protect the rule of law" — by upending our constitutional system of checks and balances — it reveals the Democrats' true motive, noting that the court has recently ruled against Democrats.

Democrats now see the court as a less reliable source of progressive policy than before — because, under its current composition, the court is more focused on dispassionately interpreting the Constitution and laws. Therefore, Democrats are issuing the court an ultimatum: (1) Revert to left-wing activism, or (2) be replaced by justices who will.

If successful, this type of shakedown of the judicial branch by another branch of government would effectively leave our government with just two branches.

While Democrats huff and puff about preserving institutions, their proposals to twist the court toward Democrats' partisan agenda are a flagrant attack on them.

In our intricate system of checks and balances, the three-legged stool will topple if Democrats succeed at sawing off one leg.

Only under the warped logic of progressive Democrats can you save our democratic institutions by destroying them.

Bill Hagerty has served as the junior United States senator from Tennessee since 2021.

By Tim Murtaugh

## The media are in love, and they're telling everybody

Reporters assist Harris in burying her record of leftism and failure

It's been less than two weeks since Vice President Kamala Harris became the presumed Democratic presidential nominee, but it feels like an eternity. Rarely have the media risen so suddenly in unison, with such excited certainty, to hail a new political hero, and it has been predictably nauseating.

Sure, they still gush over former President Barack Obama, and they fawned over and protected President Biden until they didn't, but the rapturous media reaction to Ms. Harris is something to behold in its blindness to history and reality. The truth is that she is a terrible national candidate and always has been, but the media want to conceal that as much as they can over the next 90-some days. Here's why:

Many White House reporters were guilty of looking the other way when Mr. Biden showed evidence of cognitive decline. Others actively participated in the lie that Mr. Biden was mentally competent. The worst co-conspirators were the ones who credulously reported the ridiculous White House claim that videos it called "cheap fakes" were misleadingly making Mr. Biden seem feeble.

When Mr. Biden performed a face-plant for the ages in his June 27 debate with former President Donald Trump, the charade was exposed, and the media were caught with their impartiality down. Mr. Biden had broken the agreement — spoken or unspoken — that the media would not make an issue of his infirmity as long as he didn't embarrass them along the way.

But Mr. Biden failed to keep his end of the deal, which angered the media. They decided that he had to go — both to eliminate the reminder of their own ethical transgressions and to salvage any chance for the Democrats to win the election.

After they had hounded Mr. Biden into stepping aside, working in concert with Mr. Obama, former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senate Majority Leader Charles E. Schumer, they promptly fainted with relief and ecstasy as Ms. Harris was anointed as the replacement candidate.

They didn't care that she failed miserably in her first presidential campaign, that she has failed to demonstrate any utility as vice president or that she frequently gets stuck in catchphrase loops that reveal her panic whenever she is forced to address serious policy questions. They cared only that she was not Mr. Biden and that she had given the Democrats a fresh start with a different candidate.

And so the media set out to prop up and defend their new hero.



ILLUSTRATION BY HUNTER

Among the first and most egregious attempts to remake her record was the assault on what had formerly been a line on her resume — that she had

been Mr. Biden's "border czar." Because the illegal immigration crisis is a political liability for her, she didn't want to be held responsible for it, even though Mr. Biden held a news conference in 2021 to put her in charge of the administration's efforts. And no, she didn't have the title "border czar," because no such title exists in American government, although people who are given leadership responsibilities in large policy areas are colloquially referred to as czars all the time.

Axios led the way with a post on X that lectured, "The Trump campaign and Republicans have tagged Harris repeatedly with the 'border czar' title — which she never actually had." The problem was that the same publication and the same reporter had previously referred to Ms. Harris as the "border czar."

Many other media outlets followed this pattern, and the cable news channels were full of apologists denying she was ever given responsibility for anything, as if that were a defense.

Another astonishing phenomenon is the way Ms. Harris' campaign is systematically erasing her leftist positions on key issues and replacing them with new opinions she has apparently just discovered. And they're doing it by dribbling out little exclusives to different media outlets to announce that she's reversed herself on something important, such as banning fracking, ending the use of fossil fuels, confiscating guns, outlawing employer-provided health insurance, decriminalizing border crossings and supporting the "defund the police" movement.

The reporters are accepting these "scoops" from staffers who don't speak on the record, and they shouldn't be. When someone discards so many long-held beliefs at once, voters deserve an explanation from the candidate herself. That we have not is a failing of both Ms. Harris and the media.

Aside from effervescent enthusiasm for her brand candidacy and a lot of fanboying and girling, the media are doing some heavy lifting on substantive things — actively helping her reshape her record and hide who she really is, just as she's being reintroduced to the country.

Conscientious journalists wouldn't do any of this, but people do crazy things when they're in love.

Tim Murtaugh is a Washington Times columnist, a communications consultant, co-host of the "Line Drive Podcast" and the author of the Amazon bestselling book "Swing Hard in Case You Hit It: My Escape From Addiction and Shot at Redemption on the Trump Campaign."



## China, the Palestinian Authority and Hamas

*Iran's proxy in Gaza will use Beijing Declaration to claim diplomatic legitimacy*

By Jed Babbin

For months, the Biden administration has insisted that the Palestinian Authority should govern the Gaza Strip after the current war between Israel and the Hamas terrorists is over. The idea, pushed hard by Secretary of State Antony Blinken, was that a supposedly rejuvenated Palestinian Authority would govern Gaza with some sort of Israeli security overlay.

Israel has always opposed the idea, believing correctly that the Palestinian Authority is too closely connected to terrorism and too weak to govern anything.

The Biden-Blinken idea of such a government for Gaza's future was blown out of the water by the July 23 agreement between the Palestinian Authority and Hamas known as the Beijing Declaration, signed by both parties in the presence of their smiling hosts. The agreement has not only destroyed the Biden administration's idea but has also made China a bigger player in the Middle East generally and the Israel-Hamas war in particular.

China's implicit endorsement of

COMMENT & ANALYSIS

# The Kamala cover-up

Leftists revise recent history of latest Democratic presidential candidate

Narratives shift quickly in Washington. As soon as Democratic Party elites decided in a back room somewhere that Vice President Kamala Harris would stand in place of President Biden on the 2024 Democratic ticket, orders were dispatched to redefine her record.

Within hours, it became forbidden to refer to Ms. Harris as the “border czar,” as if that did not precisely describe the mission she had been tasked to complete. Ms. Harris said as much in her cover letter introducing the administration’s border strategy, writing that “the President asked me to lead our nation’s efforts to address the root causes of that [illegal] migration.”

In response to conservatives pointing out that the presumptive Democratic nominee has failed in this mission, Axios went full Pravda, asserting that its prior reporting was incorrect. “This article has been updated and clarified to note that Axios was among the news outlets that incorrectly labeled Harris a ‘border czar’ in 2021.”

It’s true that no administration official has business cards with “czar” as the job title. In 1982, the Treasury Department official charged with stemming the flow of illicit substances in the country was informally called the “drug czar.” The label stuck because it is a compact expression accurately describing an official’s area of responsibility.

Axios isn’t alone in trying to unburden itself of what has been. The Media Research Center compiled a comprehensive set of television news clips from the major networks calling Ms. Harris the border czar before turning around and claiming that Republicans were the ones calling her the border czar — as if calling attention to her lack of achievement on a critical policy

issue were somehow out of bounds.

The administration’s failure to control the border allowed around 10 million uninformed guests to enter the country illegally, leading 77% of the public to call the border situation a “major problem,” according to a Gallup Poll from June.

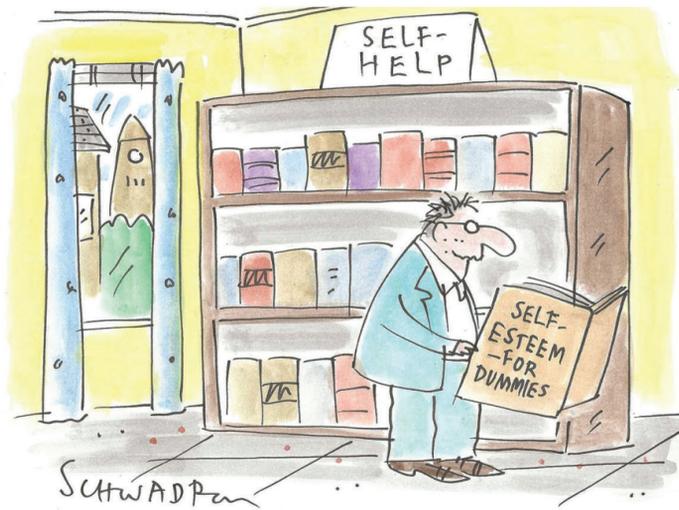
In another bit of revision, the GovTrack website quietly erased its 2019 description of the voting record of Ms. Harris as the “most liberal compared to All Senators.” The statement had been based on an analysis of the bills and resolutions that she sponsored. GovTrack claims it is “committed to integrity” and would “never misrepresent or exclude information to favor one side of an issue before Congress,” but the erasure coincided with Mr. Biden’s deletion from the campaign.

The bills Ms. Harris introduced in 2019 and 2020 speak for themselves. The DONE Act would have unsecured the border even further by prohibiting the expansion of immigrant detention centers, and S. 2219 would have given illegal aliens the right to free lawyers so that they could dispute and litigate their unlawful entry into the country.

It’s obvious Ms. Harris is as much a fan of chaos at the border as she is of chaos on the streets. She raised money for Black Lives Matter rioters in the summer of 2020 that left 19 dead and at least \$2 billion in property damage.

The left wants the public to forget that, as stores were being looted and buildings set on fire, Ms. Harris tweeted, “If you’re able to, chip in now to the MNFreedomFund to help post bail for those protesting on the ground in Minnesota.”

The actions and words of Ms. Harris over the past several years define who she really is. Don’t be fooled by the carefully synchronized effort to hide her record.



BOOK REVIEW

## “HITLER’S PEOPLE: THE FACES OF THE THIRD REICH”

By Richard J. Evans

Aug. 13, 2024, Penguin Press, 98 pages, \$35

By Martin Di Caro

Richard Evans tells us not to think of the perpetrators of the most horrendous crimes ever committed as psychopaths. Neither were the leading Nazis gangsters or hoodlums seeking primarily to enrich themselves. They were not insane, either, because the insane do not understand what they are doing. In contrast, nearly all Nazi war criminals were completely aware, remorseless and proud that they had murdered millions of Jews and others whose mere existence threatened their imaginary Aryan race.

“Apart from flying in the face of the evidence, thinking of them as depraved, deviant or degenerate puts them outside the bounds of normal humanity and so serves as a form of exculpation for the rest of us, past, present and future,” Mr. Evans concludes in his superb biographical study, “Hitler’s People.”

If we look to the past to understand the popular appeal of today’s strongmen and wannabe dictators, we must view even cruel tyrants as humans rather than monsters or raving imbeciles. In the right context and conditions, any of us may be capable of contravening societal norms of decency and restraint when sanctioned from above — “to commit acts that would have been unimaginable in other circumstances.”

“Only by examining individual personalities and their stories can we reach an understanding of the perverted morality that made and sustained the Nazi regime, and, by doing so, perhaps learn some lessons for the troubled era in which we live,” writes Mr. Evans, one of the world’s foremost experts on modern Germany and the author of a magisterial three-volume study of the Third Reich published between 2003 and 2008. His new book is made up of 22 essay-length biographies; the longest, on Adolf Hitler, runs 100 pages. The rest are 15 to 20 pages in length, covering the highest-ranking Nazi officials down to the middle-class Hamburg diarist Luise Solmitz.

Humanizing Hitler and his paladins may strike some as well-meaning but misguided. Yes, Hitler — a nobody “for the first thirty years of his life” — and men such as the propagandist Joseph Goebbels and the “Butcher of Prague,” Reinhard Heydrich, came from unexceptional, mainstream backgrounds. Many were well-educated and not without real talent. As Nazis, however, they would espouse an ideology so radical and violent, turning the words “fanatical” and “pitiless” into positives, that few today might relate to them as ordinary.

Moreover, beneath the level of the chief architects of war and genocide were “hundreds of thousands of Germans” who “committed unspeakable atrocities behind the Eastern Front and elsewhere, as camp guards, SS killers, ghetto officers and others, and beyond that, remotely, sitting at

# Humanizing Hitler

‘Faces of the Third Reich’ examines how atrocities can be committed

their desks in Berlin,” Mr. Evans says. So it may be tempting to think there must have been something different about them. Most people cannot picture themselves as capable of firing a bullet through the head of a harmless child just because the child is Jewish.

As the author persuasively argues, such behavior must not be abstracted from the ideological and historical contexts of interwar Germany, where “men came predominantly from a right-wing familial and social milieu, in which antisemitism was common and German nationalism a given. They were hardened to extreme violence by experiencing military service in World War I, or in its glorification by the right-wing media in the 1920s, in literature, in film, newspapers, and magazines.”

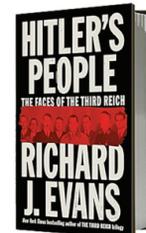
Their lives were plunged into the traumatizing economic and political chaos of the Weimar Republic, fertile soil for demagogues promising the rebirth of German national greatness and the destruction of the “Jewish world conspiracy.” It was within “a general culture that valorized and rewarded brutality and fanaticism, encouraged from the very top” that “these men found satisfaction in committing atrocities.”

Equally chilling was the accommodation middle-class Germans such as Solmitz made with the regime, rationalizing the Nazis’ extreme violence from 1933 because they were “restoring order” after a ruinous democratic decade. In her diary, a trove of insights for historians interested in everyday life in the Third Reich, Solmitz “continued to record her approval, welcoming the emergence of Hitler as a ‘strongman’ and applauding” his dictatorial measures. She was so intoxicated by Hitler that she denounced her brother Werner, an enthusiastic supporter of a liberal political party, to a local propaganda organization. Fortunately for Werner, it was not the Gestapo.

Solmitz expressed almost no sympathy for Hamburg’s Jews as Nazi persecution marginalized them from all aspects of civic life on the road to deportation and murder — even though she was married to a Jewish war veteran. No one coerced this ordinary woman to betray her brother. Her attitude toward Jews was not forced upon her, either. She was no fanatic — just an ordinary citizen who succumbed to a powerful emotional appeal exalting the nation while dehumanizing all those who were excluded from this reborn “organic community.”

Therein lies the unsettling lesson of Richard Evans’ searching, humane scholarship.

Martin Di Caro is the host of the “History as It Happens” podcast at The Washington Times.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## ‘Restraint’ means Israel should lie down and die

After Hamas attacked Israel on Oct. 7, murdering 1,200 people and taking hostages, the response of President Biden and Secretary of State Antony Blinken was for Israel to use “restraint.” The U.S. provided assistance, but it was slow and came with conditions. Israel responded aggressively in its mission to remove any further threat by Hamas, a proxy of Iran.

Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh was killed in Iran this week. Iran blamed

Israel and pledged to attack it, and the many anti-Israel countries condemned Israel. Mr. Blinken is again calling for restraint, citing a possible peace deal. The Biden-Blinken lack of reality and the United Nations’ numerous Israel haters have no grasp of the threats Israel continues to face.

On April 16, Iran launched 120 ballistic missiles and 170 drones with the intent to destroy infrastructure and kill as many Jews as

possible. Fortunately, Israel and its allies were able to take down most of them.

Have any of these dysfunctional government leaders or countries considered the hundreds to thousands of people — including Christians, Druze and Muslims — who could have been killed? The answer is no, because they don’t care.

MARVIN L. HOOVIS  
Centerville, Massachusetts

## Harris is biracial

Former President Donald Trump has merely addressed Vice President Kamala Harris’ convenient erasure of her Indian mother’s racial and ethnic background (“Donald Trump falsely questions Kamala Harris’ race as he appears at gathering of Black journalists,”

web, July 31). Ms. Harris is claiming that she is Black in an effort to appeal to Black voters. In essence, she is saying “I am one of you,” when technically she is biracial.

Of course, Ms. Harris can call

herself whatever she likes. But in reality her mother was Indian and her father is Jamaican. Facts are facts.

JOANN LEE FRANK  
Clearwater, Florida

## We can’t afford a Harris presidency

We just crossed the \$35 trillion in debt threshold, but that’s just the beginning of what Vice President Kamala Harris would do if she became president (“Kamala Harris wants you to forget all she once stood for,” web, July 31).

She is pushing for “single-payer” health care. That means the federal government (you, the taxpayer) will pay for 100% of health care in America. The cost will be \$32 trillion over 10 years, according to the Mercatus Center. Further, government control of health care would mean federal

government control over the taxpayers. Yet we’d have a lot more debt.

The cost of the Green New Deal under Ms. Harris would be at least \$93 trillion, according to the American Action Forum. This is \$65,000 per household per year, just to start. The total cost to us taxpayers would be \$94 trillion. The United States will be completely bankrupt if Ms. Harris is elected.

It doesn’t have to be this way. Don’t allow the federal government to gain full control over health care (and you). Let’s use the energy

sources God gave us while incrementally improving the environment. We are currently being used as suckers under the Paris climate agreement. While the U.S. will be paying trillions of dollars, many powerful countries pay nothing, as listed under the agreement.

You’ve been warned: Do not vote for Kamala Harris as president. She would be a total disaster for the United States.

AL DILASCIA  
Chicopee, Massachusetts

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# U.S. must learn from Ukraine about drone warfare, weapons systems

*What our enemies are seeing in real time*

By Shea Bradley-Farrell

The United States must learn some critical lessons from Russia's war in Ukraine. Our current weapons systems and tactics are being radically challenged by a new generation of warfare, with a massive shift in warfare techniques, logistics and weapons systems.

We have lessons to learn, and we need to learn them fast.

U.S. ground combat systems, including tanks and air defense rockets, are less effective and efficient against the enemy's much cheaper drones. This has become remarkably clear through U.S. participation in the Russia-Ukraine war. First, relatively simple and inexpensive drones, sold by Turkey and Iran to Russia, are destroying much more complex and expensive weapons systems (missiles and tanks) given to Ukraine by the U.S. and other NATO countries. Second, Ukraine is using (wasting) vastly more expensive U.S. missiles to knock these drones down.

The bottom line is that Americans are paying top dollar for military equipment that provides much lower value on the battlefield as willful and negligent politicians and defense contractors maintain the status quo to keep lining their pockets. Yet drone technology has quickly become central to warfare.

In late 2022, Russia used cheap Iranian Shahed drones and ballistic cruise missiles to systematically attack Ukraine, devastating almost one-third of that country's energy infrastructure and causing widespread blackouts. In turn, drones altered the dynamics of the war: Ukraine "used high- and low-end imported and domestically produced drones to devastating effect against Russian forces."

A 3D printer can make the components needed to use aerial photography technology to create a killer drone.

Erik Prince, founder of the Blackwater professional military services company, explains: "Now everyone has precision weapons. To the point that a 12-year-old kid with a First Person View [FPV] Drone can put a beer-can-sized charge on the bottom of the drone and fly it into a tank many miles away. This is a step change in warfare, going from long bows and spears not just to ... muskets, but to bolt action rifles. It is massive: the proliferation, the democratization, of precision strike down to 'two guys with a backpack.'"

In June 2023, Ukraine sent drones and long-range missiles to destroy Russian command and control sites as well as ammunition

depots, fuel storage infrastructure and bridges from Crimea to the Donbas and Russian mainland. The coupling of cheap drones with artillery and infantry has radically changed ground combat, offering important "battlefield transparency and responsiveness." In other words, cameras on flying drones can reveal what the enemy is doing and allow a quicker response.

Ukraine's airpower has largely taken the form of drones — "a first for a large nation." In some instances, Javelin missiles given to the Ukrainians by the U.S. at a cost of about "\$200,000 per shot with a \$300,000 command launch unit" have been switched out for missiles

and "jammed" by the Russians.

Russia has the upper hand in electronic warfare against Ukraine, with the result that high-tech U.S. weapons quickly become ineffective and obsolete. But why?

The U.S. is lagging behind, and our enemies can see that. Why do military planners and appropriating politicians allow the military-industrial complex to maintain the status quo, generating ineffective (and ultimately dangerous) weapons born by the American taxpayer? There is little to no accountability for money flowing from the U.S. government to the military-industrial complex, but thousands of lobbyists spread tens of millions of dollars around Washington to keep the "money train" on track.

Still, relatively inexpensive drones are drastically changing the "assumptions of airpower and ground combat" in a way that could ultimately lead to a devastating defeat for the U.S.

In 2023, the Pentagon announced the Replicator drone initiative in response to China's growing influence in the South China Sea. Defense innovation experts, however, questioned the feasibility of its proposed timeline (the next 18 to 24 months) based on their experience with slow and cumbersome Defense Department bureaucracy.

They're right. Ukraine loses about 10,000 drones per month but quickly replaces them using cheap, commercially available drones. Experts believe the U.S. initiative is incapable of this but is "years away."

The U.S. must focus on upgrading U.S. weapons systems quickly — military experts agree drones will play a significant role in warfare going forward. In addition, NATO government defense departments will have to "transform how they buy weapons to keep up with much faster development cycles of increasingly software-defined weapons and autonomous systems driven by artificial intelligence. ... Officials will have to look outside their usual pool of suppliers to involve smaller companies ... from a technology background."

Congress should stop blindly using the same defense contractors and spending money on weapons that are quickly becoming obsolete, and instead pursue U.S. dominance in artificial intelligence, drone innovation and application. Our national security depends upon it.

Shea Bradley-Farrell is a national security and foreign policy professional in Washington and president of the Counterpoint Institute for Policy, Research and Education. Follow her at counterpointinstitute.org or on X @DrShea\_DC and @CounterpointDC.

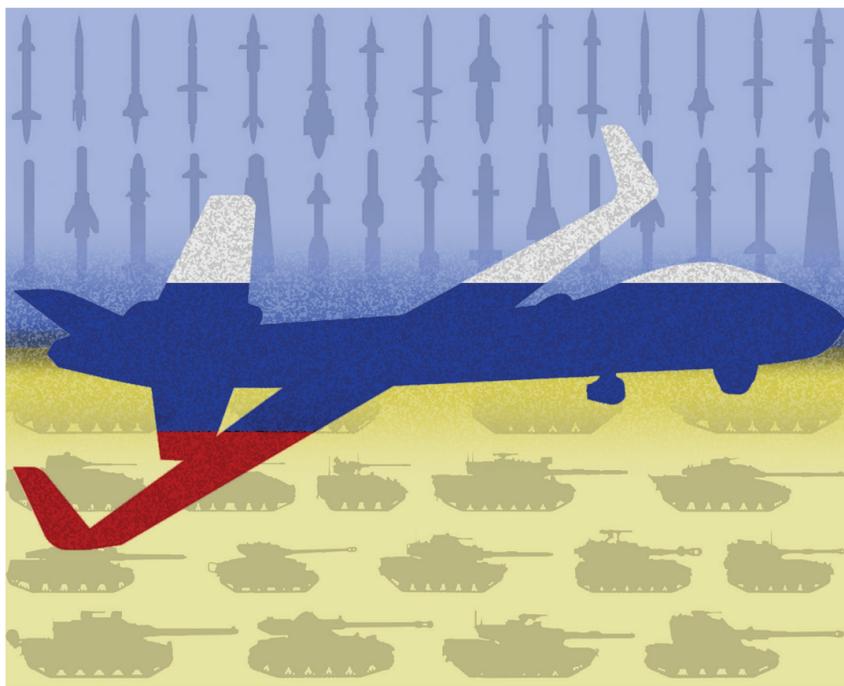


ILLUSTRATION BY HUNTER

built by "Ukrainians themselves" (for around \$29,000) and delivered to the enemy on a drone or an anti-tank missile.

For 20 years, U.S. weapons systems fought a war on terror in mainly primitive locations against a relatively unsophisticated enemy. In the Russia-Ukraine war, however, the operating environment and fighting techniques are radically different. It is a sophisticated electronic warfare environment where the entire electromagnetic spectrum (all signals and electronics) is effectively targeted

## Harris owns Biden's disastrous record

Her policies will cost us more and make us less secure

Biden administration. The yearly average is more than four times that of the Trump administration. In addition, agents registered more than 1.6 million encounters at official ports of entry which were considered "inadmissible," yet some were allowed to enter the country. There were also nearly 400,000 "getaways" in the most recent fiscal year — which is twice the highest annual total during President Donald Trump's time in office.



SCOTT WALKER

When she was in the Senate, Ms. Harris signed a letter urging fellow senators to reject the request from the Trump administration to fund more Border Patrol agents. As a 2020 candidate for president, she said that illegal border crossings should be decriminalized and said she would "think about

abolishing ICE. Ms. Harris was the point person for the Biden administration on immigration. Its failed policies made it easier for Jose Aguilar-Martinez to enter the country illegally. Melody Waldecker is dead because of those failed policies.

I don't care about her weird laugh or her word-salad answers. I don't care about memes filled with coconuts or how radical her stepdaughter is on social media. I care about how bad her policies are for America and how much worse they would be if she became president.

Voters do, too. Respect them enough to talk

about what they care about: high prices, public safety and border security.

During the Biden-Harris tenure, real wages and



ILLUSTRATION BY GREG GROESCH

benefits have fallen by 3.6%, inflation (which drives high prices) has been higher than wages for 26 straight months, interest rates hit their highest levels in 23 years, and over one-third of families are behind on their bills.

Prices are up 20%. A gallon of gas costs about

\$1.25 more in Wisconsin. Housing costs are up nearly 30%. That means young homebuyers like my son and daughter-in-law are paying nearly \$1,000 more per month on their mortgage. People are rightly upset. They don't need four more years of this pain.

Safety is also a concern. Ms. Harris posted an appeal for funding to help post bail for those involved in the "protests" in Minnesota at the height of the riots that followed the start of the Black Lives Matter movement. She told Jacob Blake in Kenosha, Wisconsin, that she was proud of him.

The public later learned that police were responding to a 911 call from Mr. Blake's estranged girlfriend and that Mr. Blake had a warrant for his arrest based on charges of third-degree felony sexual assault and disorderly conduct. He was shocked with Tasers by two police officers; authorities say he was resisting arrest and appeared to be reaching for a knife when an officer discharged his weapon to protect himself. Mr. Blake later pleaded guilty to two lesser charges, yet then-Sen. Harris said she was proud of him.

Kamala Harris' policies will cost us more and they will make us less secure. That's what we should be talking about. We owe it to families across the country — particularly the family of Melody Waldecker.

Scott Walker is president of Young America's Foundation and served as the 45th governor of Wisconsin from 2011 to 2019.

Melody Waldecker had just walked into a 7-Eleven this past weekend when she noticed a person getting into her car. When she tried to stop him, he hit her with the vehicle. She died at the scene.

Jose Aguilar-Martinez was arrested and charged with carjacking and killing the 54-year-old mother of four and grandmother of eight. According to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, he is a "getaway." To be clear, getaways are immigrants who are spotted crossing illegally by Border Patrol agents who are too occupied to respond or picked up by cameras and sensors. Mr. Aguilar-Martinez is from El Salvador.

Vice President Kamala Harris shares the blame for Melody Waldecker's death. President Biden announced in March 2021 that Ms. Harris would lead the administration's efforts to address the root cause of migration from Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador. She has failed.

On March 24, 2021, Mr. Biden said, "In addition to that, there's about five other major things she's handling, but I've asked her, the VP, today — because she's the most qualified person to do it — to lead our efforts with Mexico and the Northern Triangle and the countries that help — are going to need help in stemming the movement of so many folks, stemming the migration to our southern border."

Ms. Harris was asked by the president to lead the administration's efforts to deal with migration at our southern border, where millions of people have entered the United States illegally. The results have been a disaster.

According to U.S. Customs and Border Protection, there have been 6.4 million encounters outside official ports of entry along the border during the

## Babbin

From page B1

Hamas has put it squarely on the side of the terrorists who, we should remember, killed about 1,200 people in their Oct. 7 attack. Hamas also took about 240 people hostage, including eight Americans.

At least three Americans have died in Hamas custody, and five are still being held. President Biden has done nothing to secure their release.

Hamas will use the Beijing Declaration to claim some degree of diplomatic legitimacy. That is part of what China has in mind, of course. Other parts of China's game are to make itself equal or superior to the U.S. in arbitrating an end to the Israel-Hamas war. China can use that leverage with the Arab states to damage what is left of former President Donald Trump's Abraham Accords.

The Abraham Accords, under which several Arab countries recognized and commenced diplomatic relations with Israel, were the biggest achievement of the Trump presidency. Saudi Arabia, the most influential of the Arab states, had been negotiating with Israel to join the accords, but those negotiations were undermined — if not destroyed — by the war and Hamas' propagandized claims that

magnified the number of civilian casualties.

Because the Saudis have an existential fear of Iran, those negotiations are delayed further by China's injecting itself into the war and giving Hamas — again, Iran's proxy — diplomatic legitimacy.

The effects of China's endorsement of the Palestinian Authority-Hamas agreement will grow clearer. It may

mean Chinese funding and perhaps arming Hamas to mount more attacks on Israel. It obviously means that China supports Hamas as an equal partner with the Palestinian Authority in governing a Palestinian state, the declaration of which is another of Mr. Biden's goals.

If elected president, Vice President Kamala Harris will seek a Palestinian state. On national security and foreign

policy, she will be indistinguishable from Mr. Biden except in cases when she will be worse. For example, she has already made clear her antipathy toward Israel.

In his July speech to a joint session of Congress, boycotted by Ms. Harris and other Democrats, Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu sketched a vague outline of a postwar Gaza's future. He said that it should be deradicalized and that Israel's future lies with more peaceful relations with its Arab neighbors. That means expansion of Mr. Trump's Abraham Accords, which China will try to block.

China's ambitions in the Middle East are no less voracious than they are in the South China Sea. Its alliance with Iran — the world's principal sponsor of terrorism — should be a major sore point between the U.S. and China. It isn't because Mr. Biden and Ms. Harris ignore it.

Chinese President Xi Jinping proposed the strategic agreement with Iran, which was signed in 2021. The Iran-China pact is a 25-year agreement for "political, strategic, and economic" cooperation. Under it, China has become the major buyer of Iranian oil in defiance of American sanctions.

Russia has a similar agreement with Iran. The three form a new version of former President George W. Bush's "axis of evil."

The China-Iran agreement probably includes sending Iran arms and certainly includes intelligence-sharing. It probably also includes a Chinese military presence in Iran. That presence — for the Chinese army and naval and air forces — will grow in accordance with the intent of both nations. China's military presence in Iran means it will protect Iran and create a new threat to Israel, Europe and the United States.

China understands better than Mr. Biden and Ms. Harris do that Hamas is an Iranian proxy. China has put its 2021 agreement with Iran into practice by engineering the Hamas-Palestinian Authority agreement. By doing so, it has gained more regional power and probably frustrated any expansion of the Abraham Accords.

There is, as usual, a lot we should be doing but won't. The president, vice president, secretary of state and our ambassador to the U.N. should be condemning China's support for Hamas and Iran. They won't because Mr. Biden's approach to China and Iran has always been appeasement. We can expect the same from Ms. Harris if, heaven forbid, she is elected president.

Jed Babbin is a national security and foreign affairs columnist for The Washington Times and contributing editor for The American Spectator.



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### Employment Opportunities

**Software Engineers (multiple positions):** MS in Comp. Sc/Eng related with 1 yr exp. Expertise in Adv. Computer Arch, Internet & Network tech, Technical Writing abilities, Systems Design, Curram application development & A.W.S. Travel/Reloc. Resume to: OOTB MINDS INC. 1426 21st NW, Unit # 5-6, Washington, DC 20036. Email: [yashwant@ootbminds.com](mailto:yashwant@ootbminds.com)

**MPower Financing, Public Benefit Corporation** in Washington, DC is seeking Sr. Analysts (Marketing Analytics) to research conditions in local, regional, national, & online markets. No travel req'd. WFH benefit avail. Salary: \$91,416/yr. Email resumes to: [careers@mpowerfinancing.com](mailto:careers@mpowerfinancing.com)

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### Legal Services

**DIVORCE - Uncontested, \$475-\$86 court cost. WILL \$-295.00. No court appearance. Estimated completion time twenty-one days.** Hilton Oliver, Attorney (Facebook). 757-490-0126. Se Habla Espanol. BBB Member. <https://hiltonoliverattorneyva.com>

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## Legal Ads

### Legal Notices

#### DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL

#### REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

#### RFP for High School Leadership Support

DC International School (DCI) invites written proposals for all interested and qualified vendors to submit proposals for High School Leadership Support from August 18th, 2024 through June 22nd, 2025.

#### School Information:

DCI serves grades 6th - 12th with approximately 1,600 students and 280 full-time staff. The school is located at 1400 Main Drive NW and operates from 8am - 4:30pm, with afterschool programming until 6pm.

DCI is founded on four core pillars: International Baccalaureate for All, Language at the Core, Student Agency, and Socially Just Community. The school is also intentionally diverse for both students and staff.

If interested, please email [RFP@dcinternationalschool.org](mailto:RFP@dcinternationalschool.org) for a full scope of responsibilities.

Proposals must be received no later than the close of business Tuesday, August 13, 2024. Please specify "RFP for HS Leadership Support" in the subject line. No phone calls or late responses please.

August 2, 2024

Ad#85953

#### I DREAM PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL

#### REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

#### Interim Director of Operations

**RFP for Operations Support:** I Dream Public Charter School invites all interested and qualified independent contractors to submit proposals for Interim Director of Operations services to be completed over the 2024 - 2025 school year.

Submission deadline is 5:00 PM Eastern Time on Friday, August 16, 2024. To request full scope and/or seek additional information, please email:

**Janine Gomez**  
Executive Director  
[gomez@idreampcs.org](mailto:gomez@idreampcs.org)

Specify "RFP for Interim DOO" in the subject line. No phone inquiries or late responses please.

August 2nd thru 16th, 2024

Ad#85764

#### FRIENDSHIP PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL

#### REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

#### Various Services

Friendship Public Charter School is seeking bids from prospective vendors to provide:

• Student Transportation Services, bus and van services for student filed trips and travel.

The competitive RFP can be found on FPCS website at: <http://www.friendshipschools.org/procurement>. Proposals are due no later than 4:00 P.M., EST, Friday August 23, 2024. Questions and Proposals should be submitted on-line at: [Procurementinquiry@friendshipschools.org](mailto:Procurementinquiry@friendshipschools.org). All bids not addressing all areas as outlined in the RFP will not be considered. No proposals will be accepted after the deadline.

August 2, 2024

Ad#85911

#### I DREAM PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL

#### REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

#### Human Resources Services

I Dream PCS located in Washington DC invites proposals for full-cycle human resources support. Submission deadline is 5:00 PM Eastern Time on August 16, 2024.

To request full scope and/or seek additional information, please email:

**Janine Gomez**  
Executive Director  
[gomez@idreampcs.org](mailto:gomez@idreampcs.org)

August 2nd thru 16th, 2024

Ad#85766

#### KIPP DC PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS

#### REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

#### Insurance Consulting Services

KIPP DC is soliciting proposals from qualified vendors for Insurance Consulting Services. The RFP can be found on KIPP DC's website at [www.kippdc.org/procurement](http://www.kippdc.org/procurement). Proposals should be uploaded to the website no later than 5:00 PM EST on August 16, 2024. Questions should be addressed to [allyssa.noth@kippdc.org](mailto:allyssa.noth@kippdc.org).

August 2, 2024

Ad#85786

#### Public Notice – Environmental Permit

**PURPOSE OF NOTICE:** To seek public comment on a draft Virginia Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit from the Department of Environmental Quality that will allow the release of industrial stormwater into waterbodies in Fairfax County and Loudoun County, Virginia.

**PERMIT NO.:** VA0089541

**NAME AND ADDRESS OF FACILITY:** Washington Dulles International Airport, 1 Saarinen Circle, Dulles, VA 20166

**DEQ CONTACT:** Celeste DuFour, (703) 583-3810. [Celeste.DuFour@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:Celeste.DuFour@deq.virginia.gov), 13901 Crown Ct, Woodbridge, VA 22193

The full public notice is available at <https://www.deq.virginia.gov/permits-regulations/public-notices/water/virginia-pollution-discharge-elimination-system-vpdes>

Run Dates: August 2nd, 2024  
August 9th, 2024

Ad#85692

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### Legal Notices

There is now pending before the District of Columbia Superior Court a civil action, case number 2023-CAB-007458 seeking to affect title to the property now or formerly owned by the Defendant Estate of Willie R. Jones, located at 4208 14th St., NW, Washington, DC 20011. A copy of the action is available in the Clerk's office of the Court. A written answer, including any claims or defenses, must be filed with the District of Columbia Superior Court Civil Branch, 500 Indiana Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20001, on or before the 4th day of October 2024.

Run Dates: August 2nd, 2024  
August 9th, 2024  
August 16th, 2024

Ad#85952

#### NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO RELOCATE A MAIN OFFICE

Trustar Bank, with a current main office located at 9883 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls, Virginia 22066, filed an Application to Relocate a Main Office to 748 Walker Road, Great Falls, Virginia 22066 with the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. Any person wishing to comment on this application may file his or her comments in writing with the regional director of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation at the Atlanta Regional Office, Attn: Atlanta Regional Director, Ten 10th Street, NE, Suite 800, Atlanta, GA 30309-3849, no later than fifteen days from the date of the last required newspaper publication. The nonconfidential portions of the application are on file at the appropriate FDIC offices and are available for public inspection during regular business hours. Photocopies of the nonconfidential portion of the application file will be made available upon request.

Run Dates: July 26th, 2024  
August 2nd, 2024

Ad#85779

### Trustee Sales: Fairfax Co.

#### NOTICE OF SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE SALE 4112 K Monument Court, Unit 304, Fairfax, VA 22033

By virtue of the power and authority contained in a Deed of Trust dated January 18, 2017 and recorded January 19, 2017 in Book 24919 Page 0129 in the Clerk's Office for the Fairfax County Virginia Circuit Court, Virginia, securing a loan which was originally \$203,300.00. 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:

**Condominium Unit 4112-K, FAIRMONT CONDOMINIUM, and the limited common elements appurtenant thereto, in a condominium regime constituted and established under the Virginia Condominium Act, Chapter 4.2 of the Title 55 Code of Virginia (1950), as amended by a Declaration recorded on July 31, 1995, in Deed Book 9468, page 382, and any and all subsequent amendments thereto, among the Land Records of Fairfax County, Virginia and as shown on that certain plat attached thereto entitled "Submitted Land, Phase Three FAIRAX TOWNE CENTRE, Phase II, A Condominium"**

**TOGETHER WITH an undivided percentage interest in the common elements and common expenses and common profits of the aforesaid Condominium Regime and all the rights, privileges, and powers reserved for the benefit of each and every unit owner under and pursuant to the Declaration and By-Laws aforesaid and subject to the terms, conditions, and other provisions of said Declaration, By-Laws and Plats as amended from time to time as aforesaid. 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 advanced 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 of 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](http://www.rosenberg-assoc.com)

August 2nd, 2024  
August 9th, 2024

Ad#84925

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### Legal Notices

The purpose of this notice is to inform clients of the permanent closure of the business known as Julia L. Carter, DVM, P.C. and Sacramento Veterinary Hospital as of 08/05/2024. All digital records for patients are available for transfer to the client or a like-regulated provider without charge by email until 09/30/2024. Please send a written request to [juliacarter99@gmail.com](mailto:juliacarter99@gmail.com).

August 2nd, 2024

Ad#85935

There is now pending before the District of Columbia Superior Court a civil action, case number 2023-CAB-004609 seeking to affect title to the property now or formerly owned by the Defendant Susan M. Akerley, located at 813 G St., NE, Washington, DC, 20002. A copy of the action is available in the Clerk's office of the Court. A written answer, including any claims or defenses, must be filed with the District of Columbia Superior Court Civil Branch, 500 Indiana Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20001, on or before the 18th day of October 2024.

Run Dates: July 26th, 2024  
August 2nd, 2024  
August 9th, 2024

Ad#85774

### Trustee Sales: Alexandria

#### TRUSTEE SALE 610 N Armistead St, Alexandria, VA 22312 City of Alexandria

In execution of a Deed of Trust in the original principal amount of \$153,600.00, dated August 4, 2010 recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, in Document No. 100013564, at Page 000223, 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 for the City of Alexandria located at 520 King Street, Alexandria, on **September 4, 2024 at 12:00 PM** the property described in said deed, located at the above address and briefly described as:

Townhouse Unit 6, Beauregard Heights, together with an undivided interest in the general and limited common elements

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. (89252)**  
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.siwpc.net](http://www.siwpc.net)

August 2nd, 2024  
August 9th, 2024

Ad#85802

## 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.siwpc.net](http://www.siwpc.net)

July 29th, 30th, 31st, 2024  
August 1st, 2nd, 2024

Ad#85628

### Order Of Pub - Domestic: Alexandria

**ORDER OF PUBLICATION**  
Commonwealth of Virginia  
VA. CODE §§ 1-211.1, 1.6.01-316  
-317, 20-104  
Alexandria Circuit Court  
520 King St.  
Alexandria VA 22314

Case No. CL24001845  
Commonwealth of Virginia, in re  
Miriam C. Viliatoro Rubio  
v.  
Erick Alexander Orellana Hernandez

The object of this suit is to Plaintiff may be awarded a divorce a vinculo matrimonii from the date of the filing of the ground of having lived and apart without any cohabitation and without interruption since July 2017.

IT IS ORDERED that Erick Alexander Orellana Hernandez at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before August 26, 2024  
DATE: July 3, 2024

Darlene Sourivong  
Clerk  
July 12, 19 & 26, 2024  
August 2, 2024  
AD#85339

### Order Of Pub - Domestic: Prince William Co.

**ORDER OF PUBLICATION**  
Commonwealth of Virginia  
VA. CODE § 8.01-316  
PRINCE WILLIAM JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT

Case No: JJ155042-01-01  
Commonwealth of Virginia, in re  
NOLASKO, MICHAEL ALEXANDER

The object of this suit is to: CONDUCT A FOSTER CARE REVIEW

IT IS ORDERED that the defendant, JORGE NOLASCO BARRERA appear at the above-named Court and protect his or her interests on or before September 12, 2024 1:30 PM.  
DATE: July 2, 2024

Pilar Barrera  
CLERK  
July 19 & 26, 2024  
August 2 & 9, 2024  
AD#85553

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### I ASK FOR THIS

**Ryan Michael MATTSON**  
ESQ. VB# No. 45614  
LAW OFFICE OF RYAN M MATTSON, PC  
205 Van Buren Street, Suite 120  
Herndon, Virginia 20170  
Telephone: (571) 554-1440  
Facsimile: (571) 415-5499  
Email: [ryan@mattsonlegal.com](mailto:ryan@mattsonlegal.com)  
Counsel for Plaintiff

July 12, 19 & 26, 2024  
August 2, 2024  
AD#85363

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The Washington Times

**Order Of Pub - Domestic**

**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
FAMILY DIVISION -  
DOMESTIC RELATIONS BRANCH - ADOPTION**

**EX PARTE IN THE MATTER OF  
THE PETITION OF  
W.A.H.**  
Adoption Case No. 24 ADA 57  
Judge Kendra Davis Briggs

**FOR ADOPTION OF A MINOR CHILD  
NOTICE OF PENDING ADOPTION PROCEEDING,  
AND ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE**

**To: Nicholas Maurice Grandison**  
You are hereby notified that an adoption is pending before the Superior Court of the District of Columbia concerning the minor child, Malachi Josef Fitzgerald, born on October 25, 2023, in Washington, D.C.

You are ordered to appear for a **Show Cause Hearing** scheduled on **August 27, 2024, at 10:30 a.m.** to show cause as to why the court should not permit the adoption without your consent on the ground either that (a) you have abandoned this child and voluntarily failed to contribute to her support for a period of at least six months preceding the date of the filing of the Petition for Adoption, or (b) you are withholding your consent contrary to the child's best interest. See D.C. Code §§ 16-304 (d)-(e).

You have the right to seek custody of the child or to challenge the adoption. However, in order to do so, you must either appear at the Show Cause Hearing or file a written objection with the Court within 20 days after you receive this notice, or at least 20 days before the date of the Show Cause Hearing, whichever date is earlier. All written objections must be sent to Family Court Central Intake Center in Room JM-540 of the D. C. Superior Court, Moultrie Courthouse, 500 Indiana Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001, or by emailing **FamilyCourtCIC@dcs.gov**. If you have any questions about filing, you may call the Family Court Call Center at (202) 879-1212.

**If you fail to appear at the Show Cause Hearing or to file a written objection by the deadline explained in the preceding paragraph, the Court may conclude that you have given up any right to object to the adoption, and the Court may terminate your legal rights, responsibilities, and obligations as the parent of this child. Unless you appear for the Show Cause Hearing or file a written objection before the hearing, you may not receive notice of subsequent court action and proceedings in this case.**

If you do not wish to seek custody or challenge this adoption, you may consent to the adoption, provided you do so voluntarily and of your own free will. If you do wish to consent to the adoption, please file a statement of consent with the Court at the address listed above.

You may retain a lawyer to represent you in the adoption proceeding, or if you are financially unable to do so, you may request the Court to appoint a lawyer to represent you. See D.C. Code § 16-316.

You may also seek free assistance from the Family Court's Self-Help Center at (202) 879-0096 or visit the Self-Help Center in Room JM-560.

**NOTICE OF HEARING**

You are ordered to appear for **Show Cause Hearing** on **August 27, 2024 at 10:30 a.m.** The petitioner(s) and biological parent shall appear for the hearing. The parties shall participate using one of the following methods:

- In-person in Courtroom JM-7 at the H. Carl Moultrie Courthouse, 500 Indiana Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20
- WebEx videoconference, using laptop or desktop computer: Open Google Chrome web browser, then click on, or copy and paste, the following URL below into the browser, enter your name and email address, then click Join: <https://dcourts.webex.com/meet/ctbjm7>
- WebEx videoconference, using iPad or iPhone: Go to App Store, download the WebEx App (Cisco WebEx Meetings), open WebEx App, select Join Meeting, type the URL below, enter your name and email address, then click Join: <https://dcourts.webex.com/meet/ctbjm7>

Kendra Davis Briggs  
Associate Judge  
July 19, 26, 2024  
August 2, 2024  
Ad#85527

**Show Cause Notice**

**VIRGINIA:  
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT  
OF THE COUNTY OF  
LOUDOUN**

**RE: MARILYN M. HONG,  
deceased.**  
Fiduciary No.,  
Probate File No 20880

**SHOW CAUSE ORDER**

It appearing that a report of the accounts of **STEPHANIE HONG**, Personal Representative of the estate of **MARILYN M. HONG**, deceased, and of the debts and demands against her estate has been filed in the Clerk's Office, and that six months have elapsed since the qualification, on motion of **STEPHANIE HONG**, the personal representative; **IT IS ORDERED** that creditors of, and all other interested in, the estate do show cause, if any they can, on the 23rd day of August, 2024 before this Court at its courtroom at 9 a.m. against the payment and delivery of the Estate of **MARILYN M. HONG**, deceased, to the distributees without requiring refunding bonds according to the Proposed Final Account on file at the Office of the Clerk of this Court.

**ORDERED** that this Show Cause Order be published once a week for two successive weeks in the Washington Times, in accordance with the provisions of Virginia Code Section 64.2-556. Entered this 17th day of July, 2024.

**Douglas L. Fleming, Jr.**  
Judge

/s/ **John F. Rodgers, p.c.**  
(Bar #18601)  
510 King Street,  
Suite 301  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
(703) 684-2000  
jfroders@rpb-law.com  
Counsel for  
**STEPHANIE HONG**

**Notice After Sale:  
Montgomery Co.**

**IN THE CIRCUIT  
COURT FOR  
MONTGOMERY  
COUNTY, MARYLAND**

**Richard E. Solomon  
Richard J. Rogers  
Michael McKeefery  
Christianna Kersey  
Kevin Hildebrandel  
Kyle Blackstone  
Kathleen Young**  
1099 Winterson Road,  
Suite 301  
Linthicum Heights, MD  
21090  
Substitute Trustees  
Plaintiffs  
v.  
**Case No.C-15-  
CV-23-00295**

**Kevin D. McCarthy,  
Esquire, Personal  
Representative for the  
Estate of Tawana Wall**  
8 Saddle Creek Court  
Burtonsville, MD 20866  
Defendant

**NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given this 31st day of July, 2024, by the Circuit Court for Montgomery County, that the sale of the property mentioned in these proceedings, made and reported, will be ratified and confirmed, unless cause to the contrary thereof be shown on or before the 30th day of August, 2024, provided a copy of this notice be published in a newspaper of general circulation in Montgomery County, once in each of three successive weeks before the 30th day of August, 2024.

The Report of Sale states the amount of the foreclosure sale price to be \$483,000.00. The property sold herein is known as 8 Saddle Creek Court, Burtonsville, MD 20866.

**Karen A. Bushell**  
Clerk of the  
Circuit Court

**Montgomery County,  
Maryland  
Filed: July 18, 2024**

**Publish:  
The Washington Times**

**Cohn, Goldberg & Deutsch,  
LLC**  
Attorneys at Law  
1099 Winterson Road,  
Suite 301  
Linthicum Heights, MD  
21090  
410-296-2550 x3031  
File# 439300

Ad No.85912  
August 2, 9 7 16, 2024



**Legal Notices**

**DC & Maryland  
202-636-4953  
Virginia  
703-425-0903**



**LET'S  
PLAY  
BALL!!**



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## Disagreement with father progresses to estrangement

**DEAR ABBY:**  
After several years of worsening arguments, I told my father I was tired of fighting with him, and we needed family counseling. He was deeply, explosively offended and not only refused to talk about counseling, but also ceased all contact with me.

**ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
DEAR ABBY**

you and Dad have family counseling resulted in your being shunned (which is what is happening). Then get on with your life and gather a "chosen family" of friends who are supportive in good times and bad.

He called my siblings and told them I was disowned and then changed his will. This was surely an overreaction, but it might be generational. When I said we needed to see a therapist, I think he heard me calling him (or us?) mentally ill, which he found unacceptable.

**DEAR ABBY:** I am a retired nurse on a limited income. Shortly after retiring, I used a large part of my retirement money to pay off the house, put on a much-needed new roof and purchase a car and various household necessities so I could at least come close to living on my Social Security income.

The relationship with my dad is probably not repairable, but he has told all of our extended family that I'm the one who cut off contact with him and that I started it. I guess that's sort of true because I said we needed to be in counseling before we visited each other again, but the way he tells the story made me look like a villain, and my aunts and cousins stopped inviting me to family events.

For the last seven years, my daughter has lived with me along with her children, who have grown in number from one to three in that short time. She's unable to keep a job because she has a variety of mental and medical issues, so I have gladly helped with co-parenting the children.

I have a good job and live on my own, so it's not that I need their support, but I miss them and hate them thinking so poorly of me. Besides going to counseling myself, which I'm doing, what can I do? — **MISSING IN MASSACHUSETTS**

I pay the bills, run errands and provide the transportation for our household while she does most of the food procurement. Some of the disputes we wind up having are about the food — eating and wasting, etc. Because I have allowed her to live here and already pay almost all the bills, am I wrong for wanting a say in matters of menu and grocery lists? — **FUSSING OVER FOOD IN OKLAHOMA**

**DEAR MISSING:** There is little more you can do besides what you have already tried. You might send out one more mass email blast explaining in detail what happened with your father, tell them you love and miss them and that you are sorry that your suggestion that

ANDREWS MCMEEL SYNDICATION

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Aug. 2).** You'll carry the profound sense that you're a part of something vast and magnificent, a vital piece of the world's intricate puzzle. People think of you as their rock, coach and cheerleader who asks nothing in return. Their esteem will be among your greatest treasures. More highlights: a physical goal achieved, winning races and spectacular dates. Aquarius and Scorpio adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 12, 4, 18, 22 and 19.

**HOLIDAY MATHIS  
HOROSCOPE**

the satisfaction of accomplishment. That's an easy thing to know. You'll also sense more nuanced things; for instance, you'll get the feeling someone's thinking about you and you'll guess their next move with accuracy.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** Someone awaits your signal and will not go until you give the nod. This subtle gesture will start an irreversible chain of events. These are exciting times — the start of something very fun for all.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** People will do as you wish, as long as they know what that is. If you can, be clear and specific about your vision. But if you're not sure, share your whimsy and your best guesses as to how you might create mutual benefit.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** Take your time. Some of what you throw into the mix won't work out, but it's all good information to your process. Eliminating a few options is crucial to the rest of your journey and will help you determine your style with everything going forward.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** No-decision is a decision. In fact, not deciding is the best decision you can make on a day like today when you're simply not convinced of the correctness of any direction. More options will become available tomorrow.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** You will acknowledge your emotions without letting them rule you. Through emotional awareness, you can respond thoughtfully and deliberately, leading to more balanced and fulfilling experiences.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** Spend time in nature, observe the world around you and let curiosity lead the way. This process of taking things in fuels your next moves with energy and perspective, enabling you to create more than you thought possible.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** There are hundreds of ways to accomplish a task. You sense what's going to work for you, but you don't know until you dive in and start making your own mistakes and earning your own points, awarded to you by you.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** Self-knowledge comes from action. It's not found in idle contemplation, but in the heat of doing. As you engage in your tasks, whether mundane or challenging, your role and purpose become clear.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** Laughter is among the very few medicines without side effects. The humor on offer today is easy for you to pick up on, and when you do, it will exercise your insides and give a gentle massage to your heart, too.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** You'll be tempted to tinker with things that don't matter. It's not a total waste because it teaches you about your taste and you gain skill with this kind of play. Still, move quickly through the exercise.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** Today you will know

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** The familiar comforts and typical pleasures might fall short. This can be unsettling, but it's in these moments of unexpected dissatisfaction that surprises can arise. From the discomfort, new opportunities and insights often emerge.

2	6	8				1		
			4		5		6	
		5	2		6			7
9		3	7				6	
			5		8			
	2			6		8		9
1			6		7	3		
3		8		2				
	4				5	6		8

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:

6	7	8	4	3	5	1	2	9
1	9	3	2	6	8	7	4	5
4	5	2	9	1	7	6	3	8
9	1	5	3	8	2	4	7	6
8	3	7	6	5	4	2	9	1
2	6	4	1	7	9	5	8	3
3	2	9	5	4	6	8	1	7
5	8	1	7	2	3	9	6	4
7	4	6	8	9	1	3	5	2

S	G	T	H	A	S	C	O	T
M	A	H	T	R	E	H	A	M
A	L	O	P	R	E	L	A	T
J	U	S	T	C	E	B	U	R
O	T	T	O	M	A	N	P	E
R	E	S	E	A	L	T	S	K
C	L	E	A	N	S	H	O	U
A	R	G	O	T	I	E	I	T
C	O	I	N	A	P	H	R	A
A	N	G	A	R	E	L	A	P
O	R	C	P	E	L	L	E	T
P	A	N	C	A	K	E	M	A
F	L	U	X	E	G	O	T	S
D	E	L	L	E	N	T	O	L
R	I	P	E	S	A	Y	I	N

NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

See 68-Across

ACROSS

- Brick bakers
- Crime lab sample
- League member
- Sling mud, say
- Recital range
- Stretch for a ride
- "Life goal agenda"
- "Not booked"
- Pop sensation
- Sore
- "Some kings and queens"
- "Oh, really?"
- Wagered
- More evasive
- Volkswagen group brand
- Came down
- Sews up
- Backup course
- Hoops rival of Duke
- Persian rulers
- Norse name
- Soldier for hire
- Tussling
- Cast out
- Vena
- "Jaws" sighting
- "Hoffman/Beatty" film flop
- Many's morning meal
- Bailiwick
- "Before, not at present"
- "Not surprising"
- Rock band selections
- Sound-off setting

DOWN

- 007 foe
- Marker
- Inc. relative
- "Oh, really?"
- Long-necked instruments
- 2010s two-Oscar actor
- No-apostrophe
- Hindu Trinity member
- Photo editing option
- Hello or goodbye
- Hit a ball hard
- Chorus of approval
- Hand-struck drum
- Puccini opera
- Rogal on stages
- Digital rebuff
- First of six popes
- Actor Quinn
- "Uncle!"
- Long-necked instruments
- NFL retirees
- Ballroom trio
- Vex
- Slavic cake
- 59-Down, e.g.
- Cheery comment
- Burning
- Flush off
- Monsieur Matisse
- Rainbowlike
- Hershey
- Contemporary
- Percolates
- Chops down
- Day light
- Gate stat
- Frat letter
- Key for getting out
- High grade? Uh-uh

www.stanxwords.com

By Kevin Christian, Edited by Stanley Newman

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MORE OF STAN'S CROSSWORDS! Play FREE from Stan's archives of Easy, Hard and Sunday puzzles at: tinyurl.com/stan-newman-crosswords

JUMBLE/David L. Hoyt & Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ATKEW

NMISU

NDIUWN

MOYGOL

FOR THE WINNER OF THE 100-METER BACKSTROKE COMPETITION, EVERYTHING...

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

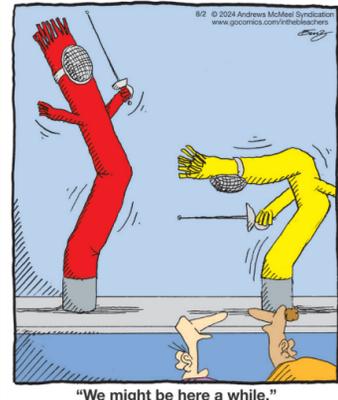


(Answers Monday) Yesterday's Jumbles: BASIS CHOMP NUGGET CLUNKY Answer: After advising clients to invest in a failing company, he became a — LAUGHING STOCK

RUBES/Leigh Rubin



IN THE BLEACHERS/Steve Moore



B.C./Mastroianni & Hart



LOLA/Todd Clark



BOUND & GAGGED/Dana Summers



ADAM @ HOME/Rob Harrell



THE BUCKETS/Greg Craven



ROSE IS ROSE/Pat Brady & Don Wimmer



DOGS OF C-KENNEL/Mick & Mason Mastroianni



HERB & JAMAAL/Stephen Bentley



CARPE DIEM/Niklas Eriksson



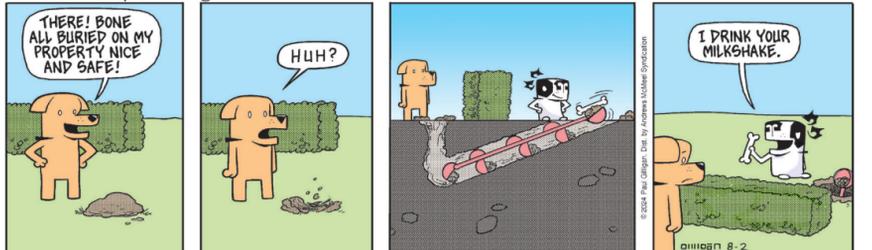
BROOM-HILDA/Russell Myers



DICK TRACY/Shelley Plegler & Mike Curtis



POOCH CAFE/Paul Gilligan



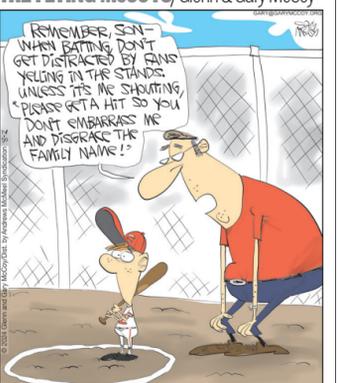
STRANGE BREW/John Deering



BOTTOM LINERS/Eric & Bill Teitelbaum



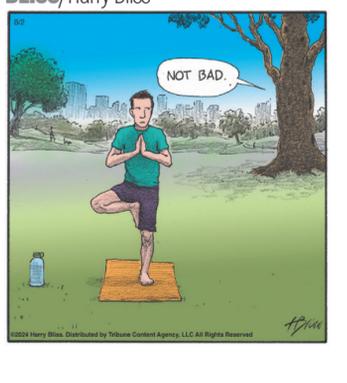
THE FLYING McCOYS/Glenn & Gary McCoy



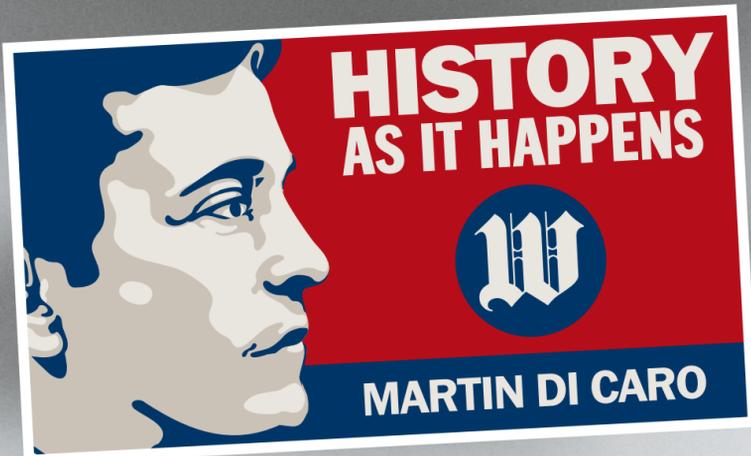
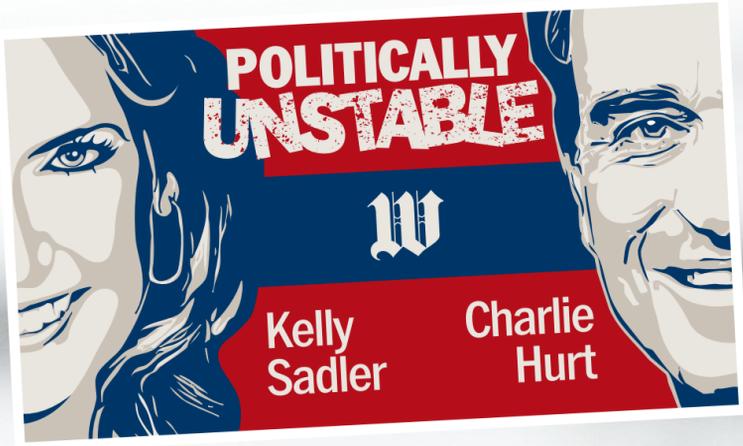
PARDON MY PLANET/Vic Lee



BLISS/Harry Bliss



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# Ledecky wins record 13th Olympic medal with silver in 4x200 free relay

By PAUL NEWBERRY  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

**NANTERRE, FRANCE** | It wasn't the medal Bethesda native Katie Ledecky would've preferred.

Still, it was good enough for the record books.

On a night when Canadian phenom Summer McIntosh romped to another victory and Kate Douglass claimed a gold for the Americans, Ledecky collected the 13th medal of her stellar career to become the most decorated woman in swimming history Thursday.

Ledecky and three American teammates took silver in the 4x200-meter freestyle relay, trailing an Australian squad led by individual gold medalists Mollie O'Callaghan and Ariarne Titmus.

"There's always pressure, but I think we were just going out there to do the best we could and win a medal and whatever records come with that medal will come and that's what happened," said Potomac, Maryland, native Erin Gemmell, who took the anchor leg after Ledecky went third.

In her next-to-last event of these games, Ledecky broke the mark she shared with fellow Americans Dara Torres, Natalie Coughlin and Jenny Thompson.

The 27-year-old now has eight golds, four silvers and one bronze over four Olympics, with every intention of swimming on to Los Angeles in 2028.

McIntosh cruised to victory in the 200 butterfly, dealing American Regan Smith a familiar silver-medal finish.

But Douglass put the U.S. on the top of the podium in the 200 breaststroke, a race that essentially served as a changing of the guard.

Longtime American star Lilly King, competing in her final Olympics, finished last in the final. She made her way over several lane ropes to give a hug to Douglass, one of the world's most versatile swimmers and now a gold medalist.

It was the fourth swimming gold for the world's most dominant swimming nation, to go along with 10 silver medals and six bronzes.

No other American woman has more Olympic medals than Ledecky. Only four athletes rank higher on the overall list, which is led by Michael Phelps with 28.



U.S. swimmers (from left) Claire Weinstein, Paige Madden and Katie Ledecky cheer on Erin Gemmell as they win the silver medal in the 4x200-meter free relay Thursday.

## Relay gold for the Aussies

O'Callaghan, gold medalist in the 200 freestyle, started things off for the Australians, giving them a lead they never relinquished.

Lani Pallister and Briana Throssell kept the team from Down Under out front, even as Ledecky tried in vain to chase down Throssell on the third leg.

When Titmus dove in on the anchor leg with the lead, it was essentially over. The winner of the 400 freestyle and silver medalist in the 200 free finished in an Olympic record of 7:38.08.

Gemmell held off China to give the U.S. the silver in 7:40.86. Claire Weinstein and Paige Madden rounded out the American squad.

Yang Junxuan, Li Bingjie, Ge Chutong and Liu Yaxin earned the bronze in 7:42.34.

Ledecky has one more event, the 800 freestyle. She's the favorite for her fourth straight gold at that distance.

## McIntosh chases down Zhang

China's Zhang Yufei, the reigning Olympic champion and of nearly two dozen swimmers from her country who tested positive for a banned substance ahead of the Tokyo Games but were allowed to compete, pushed the pace in the 200 fly over the first half of the race.

No way she was holding off McIntosh,

though. The 17-year-old powered to the lead on the third 50 and left no doubt on the closing lap. She touched in an Olympic-record of 2:03.03.

Smith passed Zhang as well, but had no chance of chasing down the youngster who has established herself as one of the biggest stars at La Defense Arena.

McIntosh opened the games with a silver medal in the 400 freestyle, finishing ahead of Katie Ledecky, and blew away the field in the 400 individual medley. This was another rout. Smith touched in 2:03.84 for the fourth silver medal of her career, which has yet to produce a gold. Zhang held on for the bronze in 2:05.09.

## Red white and blue for gold

Douglass, who won a bronze in the 200 individual medley at Tokyo, now has a complete collection.

She started the Paris Games by helping the Americans win silver in 4x100 freestyle relay. She grabbed the best color of all Thursday.

Douglass claimed the lead on the second of four laps and held off South Africa's Tatjana Smith to win in 2:19.24.

Smith, who took gold in the 100 breaststroke, settled for a silver in 2:19.60, in what she said afterward was her last race. The bronze went to Tes Schouten (2:21.05) of the Netherlands.

## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

### U.S. clinches quarterfinal berth, wins 57th straight

**VILLENEUVE-D'ASCQ, FRANCE** | Breanna Stewart scored 26 points and the U.S. beat Belgium 87-74 on Thursday night, clinching a spot in the Olympic quarterfinals.

A'ja Wilson added 23 points and 13 rebounds for the Americans, who have a 57-game Olympic winning streak

that dates to the 1992 Barcelona Games. This was one of the closer games during the historic run of seven consecutive gold medals. Only three contests have been single-digit victories.

The Americans (2-0) faced a loud, spirited pro-Belgium crowd that made up most of the 25,044 in attendance. The arena is about 30 minutes away from the country's border. The two teams met in a pre-Olympic qualifying tournament in February in Belgium, and the U.S. needed a tip-in from Stewart at the buzzer to come away with that win.

The U.S. built an early 13-point lead behind Stewart, but Belgium cut it to eight at the half and closed to 50-46 in the third quarter. Napheesa Collier capped an 8-1 spurt with five straight points, and her 3 with 2:03 left restored a double-digit advantage for the U.S.

The Americans led 60-53 heading into the fourth and then scored eight of the first 10 points to go up 13. Antonia Delaere tried to keep Belgium in the game with consecutive 3's, but it wasn't enough.

## TENNIS

### Alcaraz, Djokovic, Musetti, Auger-Aliassime reach semis

**PARIS** | Carlos Alcaraz says he doesn't feel unbeatable at Roland Garros, the site of the Paris Olympics tennis competition and the French Open title he won last month. His opponents might disagree.

Alcaraz ran his winning streak at the place to 11 matches and became the youngest man to reach the singles semifinals at a Summer Games since Novak Djokovic in 2008, getting past Tommy Paul of the U.S. 6-3, 7-6 (7) at Court Philippe Chatrier on Thursday.

In the semifinals Friday, Alcaraz

will take on Felix Auger-Aliassime of Canada, a 6-4, 6-7 (8), 6-3 winner over three-time major runner-up Casper Ruud of Norway, and the 37-year-old Djokovic will meet Lorenzo Musetti of Italy. Djokovic felt pain in his surgically repaired right knee while beating Stefanos Tsitsipas 6-3, 7-6 (3) on Thursday night and said he's concerned about how he'll be against Musetti.

Musetti eliminated Tokyo Games gold medalist Alexander Zverev of Germany 7-5, 7-5.

The women's final Saturday will be between Zheng Qinwen of China and Donna Vekic of Croatia. Zheng defeated No. 1 Iga Swiatek of Poland 6-2, 7-5, while Vekic was a 6-4, 6-0 winner against Anna Karolina Schmiedlova of Slovakia.

## ROWING

### U.S. wins its first gold medal in the men's four class since 1960

**VAIRES-SUR-MARNE, FRANCE** | When Liam Corrigan yelled out "red!" entering the final stages of the regatta, the rest of the American crew knew it was time to go hard.

They all gave it an extra push, picking up the pace just in time to fend off an attack from their rivals and secure the United States its first rowing gold medal in the men's four class since 1960. It also was the first rowing gold for the U.S. at the Paris Olympics.

Corrigan, Justin Best, Michael Grady and Nick Mead won the elusive gold on Thursday by beating out New Zealand and defending world champion Britain.

"When you make that call, 'red!' you see 'red,'" Best said. "You put your bowball out in front, some of the bigger strokes that you take in the race. Liam made that call 'red' and I went with him, and I know Nick went and I could see Brady going because he's right in front of me."

"That was enough to kind of like double that move and take us into our sprint," he said. "So it was pretty flawless execution on the call. And we trusted each other to all make that move together. And it was effective."

The last time the U.S. men's four had stood on the Olympic podium was in 2012 in London, where it won bronze. All four Americans who got the gold on Thursday were at the Tokyo Games three years ago but left without any medals.

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## NFL

**Judge overturns jury verdict in 'Sunday Ticket' lawsuit**

**LOS ANGELES** | A federal judge has overturned a jury's \$4.7 billion verdict in the class-action lawsuit filed by "Sunday Ticket" subscribers against the NFL and has granted judgment to the NFL.

U.S. District Judge Philip Gutierrez ruled Thursday that the testimony of two witnesses for the subscribers had flawed methodologies and should have been excluded.

"Without the testimonies of Dr. (Daniel) Rascher and Dr. (John) Zona, no reasonable jury could have found class-wide injury or damages," Gutierrez wrote at the end of his 16-page ruling.

The jury on June 27 awarded \$4.7 billion in damages to residential and commercial subscribers after it ruled the NFL violated antitrust laws in distributing out-of-market Sunday afternoon games on a premium subscription service. The lawsuit covered 2.4 million residential subscribers and 48,000 businesses in the United States who paid for the package on DirecTV of out-of-market games from the 2011 through 2022 seasons.

## NHL

**Ovechkin vouches for postgame beers for players**

Alex Ovechkin became an off-ice legend for his exploits with the Stanley Cup following the Capitals' 2018 championship run. He notably performed a keg stand with the trophy, drinking beer out of the Cup while his teammates held his legs in the air.

So, it wasn't surprising when he stressed the value of a postgame beer.

In a discussion with Russian blogger Amiran Sardarov last month, the NHL's No. 2 all-time goal scorer said plenty of players wind down with a postgame beverage.

"We just like to relax. After hockey, you are tired; a couple of glasses of wine or beer is normal," Ovechkin said in Russian. "It relieves tension."

It's so common for players to drink alcohol after games, the Capitals keep a fridge stocked with beer in the coach's room, the 38-year-old noted.

"I can't imagine a [player] who says he doesn't drink, he quit. You can take a break for a certain time, but after the game two to three cans of beer — with pleasure," Ovechkin said. "It's useful."

## WOMEN'S SOCCER

**Spirit owner Kang to donate \$4 million to U.S. women's rugby**

The U.S. women's rugby sevens team shocked the world by defeating Australia Tuesday with a last-second score to secure a bronze medal at the Paris Olympics.

The good news continued when Michele Kang, owner of the National Women's Soccer League's Washington Spirit, announced a \$4 million donation to help the team prepare for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.

Kang said she'll donate \$1 million each year through 2028 to provide additional resources for coaches and players.

"I am so happy to support these outstanding athletes to realize their dream in capturing the gold in Los Angeles in 2028. That work starts now," said Kang, who owns multiple women's soccer teams. "As corporate sponsors and broadcast networks increasingly see the value and enthusiasm for women's sports, now is the moment to unlock the full potential of these incredible female athletes and inspire generations to come."

USA rugby officials said they were "stunned" by Kang's unexpected donation.

## MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

**Bookmaker to plead guilty in Ohtani ex-interpreter case**

**LOS ANGELES** | A Southern California bookmaker who took thousands of sports bets from the ex-interpreter for baseball star Shohei Ohtani has agreed to plead guilty to running an illegal gambling business, U.S. authorities announced Thursday.

Mathew Bowyer's business operated for at least five years in Southern California and Las Vegas and took wagers from more than 700 bettors, including Ohtani's former interpreter Ipppei Mizuhara, the U.S. Attorney's office in Los Angeles said in a statement.

Bowyer has agreed to plead guilty to running an illegal gambling business, money laundering, and subscribing to a false tax return, the statement said. He is expected to enter the pleas in court Aug. 9.

"Mr. Bowyer is looking forward to accepting responsibility for his actions," said Diane Bass, Bowyer's attorney.

FROM WIRE DISPATCHES AND STAFF REPORTS.

## COMMANDERS

**Commanders get competitive at first camp under Quinn**

By ZACH ALLEN

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**ASHBURN** | With the preseason opener still to come and the first game that counts more than a month away, Dan Quinn hopes to narrow down the Washington Commanders depth chart with training camp competition.

"The name of the game that we'll see today is going to be competition," Quinn said before practice Thursday. "It's not on reputation. It's on the performance. And I think every good ball player knows that. It's like, 'What are you doing?' That's the performing. That's the reputation, not what you have done (in the past)."

No. 2 pick Jayden Daniels has not yet been selected as the starting quarterback, but that position is one of the most solidified on the roster, with veteran backup Marcus Mariota also in place. Quinn mentioned running back, wide receiver, tight end, defensive line, linebacker, cornerback, safety and kicker as still competitive.

Players are well aware of what is at stake.

"The word of the month is competition," said veteran offensive lineman Cornelius Lucas, who is competing with rookie Brandon Coleman, a third-round



Commanders quarterback Jayden Daniels takes a snap during training camp Thursday in Ashburn. Quarterback is one of the most solidified positions on the roster.

pick, for the starting left tackle job. "The word of the year is competition ... I'm always excited to compete because the word of the year is competition."

Although competition has been the word of the year, Thursday marked the second day the Commanders took the field in full pads, opening the door to an

increasingly competitive atmosphere.

The next few days of training camp will be the most important to Quinn.

"The team's close to ready to compete because of the competition they have against one another," Quinn said. "These next couple of days and this block is a really big one ... Guys do what

**GYMNASTICS**

From page B10

at a time. There's a reason stars like the U.S. men's basketball team and Kendall Jenner flock to watch her Thursday.

When Biles tried to downplay her impact, Lee corrected her.

"Honestly Simone, I think a lot of it has to do with you," Lee said.

Even if her 39th world or Olympic medal didn't come as easily as most of the 38 before it.

She misjudged a transition on uneven bars, the weakest of her four events, letting go of the upper bar too soon and forcing her to reach for a larger-than-expected gap.

While she didn't fall — Biles muscled her way back into the routine — it blunted her momentum and led to major deductions that left her behind Andrade through two rotations.

The deficit didn't last.

Biles responded with a largely wobble-free 14.566 on the balance beam, the

highest of the night among the 24 finalists, while Andrade was forced to do a major balance check during her slightly easier set that dropped her down to second heading into floor exercise, Biles' signature event.

Andrade, the silver medalist behind Lee in 2021, needed the best floor set of her life to catch Biles. It didn't quite happen. Andrade stepped out of bounds at one point, a minor problem but enough to create plenty of wiggle room for Biles.

"I don't want to compete with Rebeca no more," Biles said. "I'm tired. Like, she's way too close. I've never had an athlete that close."

Biles incorporated music from pop icons Taylor Swift and Beyonce into her current routine, a 75-second set that began with the opening bars of Swift's hit "Ready For It?" and featured the hardest tumbling done by a woman in the history of the sport.

When she was done — sealing gold that served as a redemption of sorts three years after pulling out of multiple finals in Tokyo to focus on her mental health

— Biles sprinted to hug Lee just off the podium and blew kisses to the cameras that have become fixtures wherever she goes under the Olympic rings.

After the final score was announced, Biles and Lee — both Olympic champions — bolted onto the floor, waving an American flag.

Lee, the Tokyo winner with Biles sidelined, is the first to win gold in all-around one Games then earn another medal in the next since Comaneci in 1976 and '80. She did it despite spending much of the last 15 months dealing with multiple kidney diseases that left her return to the Games very much in doubt.

"I just wanted to prove to myself that I could do it because I didn't think that I could," Lee said.

While there may be more medals on the way — Biles is in three event finals later in the Games — the all-around puts her into the conversation as perhaps the greatest American Olympian ever.

Yet she's also far more than that.

She's a vocal advocate for survivors of sexual abuse and the importance of

proper mental health. She met virtually with her therapist before the Americans won gold in the team final on Tuesday. They kept their regular Thursday appointment too.

Biles relied on the internal work she's done over the years after that rocky bars routine. She sat with her legs crossed on a chair in her blue sequined leotard and joked she was "praying to every single God out there."

In reality, she was trying to re-center herself. And then she moved on. It's what she does.

Biles has said repeatedly over the last three years that what happened in Tokyo is a part of her past, not her present, and if critics have a problem with it, that's their issue, not hers.

She's moved on to bigger things. Like setting a standard that may never be reached. In her gymnastics for sure, and maybe others too. When trying to count the number of active Olympians who have stood atop their sport for 11 years and counting, no math is required.

There is only one.

**FENCING**

From page B10

Weintraub, the U.S. team's alternate, was substituted into the final and immediately faced Italy's most experienced fencer, the 2012 gold medalist Errigo. That didn't faze Weintraub, who went

6-4 against Errigo and 11-5 from her two matchups.

"I think fencing is probably 40 or 50 percent mental, and going on to that strip I knew who they were, their results, how they are amazing fencers," Weintraub said. "But I also had to remind myself that I'm here for a reason, my team is here for a reason, and we're in the finals

for a reason, that we deserve to be there just as much as anybody else."

The U.S. now has four fencing medals at the Paris Olympics and two gold medals in fencing at the same Olympics for the first time, as well as a first-ever team gold for the U.S.

An American fencer, Albertson Van Zo Post, won two gold medals at the 1904

St. Louis Games but one of those was a team event in which he competed alongside two Cuban fencers. That medal is officially considered a "mixed team" win, not a U.S. gold.

Japan won its first women's fencing medal at the Paris Olympics with a 33-32 win over Canada in the bronze-medal bout.

**TENNIS**

From page B10

The scorching sun sent fans across the grounds seeking shade and hydration, and forced retirements in both draws.

Thanasi Kokkinakis had two match-point opportunities on his serve in the second set against No. 4 seed Sebastian Korda.

"He was playing some great tennis," Korda said. "When I was down 5-2, I saw him, he was kind of slowing down a little bit with the pace of his serve and his movement a little bit."

Kokkinakis double-faulted to give that and eventually the set away, and would retire down 3-2 in the final set due to cramping.

"After I won the second set, he took a medical timeout, he wasn't feeling too good. That's when you kind of just try to stay calm," Korda said. "Because it's also not easy to play someone who is struggling. They just kind of go for their shots. Sometimes they land in, then it can

be a little bit tricky for you."

No. 3 seed Liudmila Samsonova had similar issues with the heat, retiring after losing the first set 6-2 to Paula Badosa due to upper respiratory issues in what was her first singles match of the tournament.

"Well, I feel sorry for Liudmila, that she had to retire. I don't like winning matches like this, so hope she recovers because she's a great player," Badosa said. "I was expecting a tough match there."

The champion here in 2022, it was only Samsonova's second loss in her 10 Washington matches. Badosa will seek her first semifinal appearance of 2024 against fellow wild card Emma Raducanu in the next round.

"I practiced with her a few times [this week]," Badosa said. "Especially here, I think these conditions, these balls - and she proved it also a few years ago with US Open - it suits her very well. She's a very fast player. She has a very fast eye also. She changes directions really well."

In other ATP results Thursday, No. 10 seed Flavio Cobolli overcame five



Sebastian Korda returns a shot from Thanasi Kokkinakis in their D.C. Open third-round match Thursday. Korda won, 6-7 (1), 7-5, 3-2, after cramping forced Kokkinakis to retire.

match points and losing the first set to beat eight-seed Alejandro Davidovich Fokina, 1-6, 7-6 (0), 7-6 (8), in the longest match of the tournament and the first to eclipse the three-hour mark.

The Italian will meet No. 15 seed Alex

Michelsen, who won in straight sets 3-and-3 over South Korea's Seongchan Hong. And Korda will face another Australian, seven-seed Jordan Thompson, a 7-5, 6-4 victor over No. 9 Giovanni Mpetshi Perricard of France.

**LOVERRO**

From page B10

How do Washington's open practice dates compare to other teams? The Baltimore Ravens have 20 open practices — four of them limited to specialty groups like suite holders, military people and others. Baltimore can accommodate 1,200 fans for practice. Commanders' officials said they can handle 3,000 fans.

The Philadelphia Eagles had just one open practice this summer on Thursday, but that was at Lincoln Financial Field, with a \$10 charge to go to the Eagles Autism Foundation.

Neither the Ravens nor the Eagles have to rebuild a fan base like the

Commanders do.

The team may not be long for Commanders Park. In June, theburn.com reported that the team filed plans with Loudoun County to build three data centers on the headquarters/training camp property.

The team issued the following statement: "The Washington Commanders are committed to the Commonwealth. Loudoun County is where many of our coaches, players and employees not only work, but also call home. Our intention in filing for this approval is to secure the option and flexibility for possible future development on our 162-acre site and it is not a plan to take any action in the near future. Any development we do will be leveraged to reinvest

in our football program and fan experience."

Buddy Rizer, the county's economic development executive director, told theburn.com that the filing was not a surprise.

"We were aware this was coming," he said. "(The Commanders) have been very transparent with us." He said the Commanders were preserving the value of their land for all potential future uses, and that there are no actual plans to build data centers on the property at this time.

But the team is also pursuing plans for a new stadium, and it's likely those plans would include a new headquarters and practice facility.

When former owner Dan Snyder

and general manager Bruce Allen had previous stadium talks with the District, that included a new training home as well. Maryland and the property where the existing stadium sits in Landover will likely have the same plans. Virginia doesn't even qualify as a stalking horse anymore.

There has been a full house for all the open practices to date and the remaining three — Friday, Sunday and Monday — have been "sold out" (there is no charge for the tickets) as well. There was a hunger, albeit a limited one, for the new Washington Commanders menu.

Putting more food on the table would have been welcomed.

• You can hear Thom Loverro on The Kevin Sheehan Show podcast.

TENNIS

## Korda, Azarenka lock down quarterfinal bids at D.C. Open

By GEORGE GERBO  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

### Scorching heat causes multiple retirements from tournament

The stars were out in full force on Thursday at the D.C. Open, with a manic day of action and intense heat forcing multiple retirements as the men's and women's quarterfinals began to take shape.

No. 2 seed Ben Shelton, the top American playing at Rock Creek Park this week, showed no ill effects in getting back on the court barely 14 hours after his last match, needing two tiebreaks but winning in straight sets, 7-6 (5), 7-6 (4), over Brandon Nakashima to reach

the quarterfinals.

A blistering, nearly 100-degree day couldn't keep Shelton from advancing, even after he played until 1:45 a.m. Thursday due to a nearly three-hour rain delay Wednesday that pushed his start time late into the night.

Shelton will next face Canadian Denis Shapovalov, who showed the form that once made him a top 10 player in the world in upsetting No. 12 seed Miomir Kecmanovic, 4-6, 6-4, 6-2. Putting his wild-card entry to good use, it's

Shapovalov's first quarterfinal appearance in the District — the tournament where he made his ATP debut eight years ago.

Before Shelton, former world No. 1 and Washington fan favorite Victoria Azarenka was headed for a quick, straight-set win after taking the first set 6-1 off China's Yafan Wang.

But she and Wang both started to drag in the second as the temperature intensified, and Wang took advantage.

"I was playing back and forth, some

points aggressive, some a bit too hesitant," Azarenka said, "and she jumped and took the opportunity off of that."

Wang took the second set in a tie-break before a 10-minute heat rule break took effect just before the start of the third set. Azarenka took advantage of the extra time to refocus.

"Third set, I was like, 'You know what, if you miss, you miss,'" Azarenka said. "So just try to go through, just try to find your game."

She did, locking down and getting

the win 6-1, 7-6 (5), 6-3. The sixth-seeded Azarenka, who celebrated her 35th birthday Wednesday — "I'm 18 for the 17th time," she joked — will face fellow Belarusian and top seed Aryna Sabalenka in the quarterfinals Friday, her seventh quarterfinal appearance of the year.

The two are the only seeded players in the WTA draw after No. 4 seed Ons Jabeur retired due to a shoulder injury before what was to be her first match Thursday night against District native Robin Montgomery, who advanced to the quarterfinals via walkover.

» see TENNIS | B9

## PARIS 2024



Simone Biles performs on the balance beam during the women's artistic gymnastics all-around finals Thursday in Paris. Biles won her sixth career gold medal.

ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTOGRAPHS

# PUSHED TO THE MAX

By WILL GRAVES  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Biles edges Andrade for her second Olympic all-around gymnastics title

PARIS | Simone Biles huddled with Sunisa Lee. She looked to her husband Jonathan Owens in the stands. Lost in the moment. And maybe a touch frantic.

The American gymnastics star knew she was trailing Brazil's Rebeca Andrade and Algeria's Kaylia Nemour through two rotations during the Olympic all-around final Thursday.

After a sloppy uneven bars that included a mistake Biles can never remember making in competition, she sat in a chair, closed her eyes, ignored the sea of cameras around her and attempted to refocus.

She and Lee tried to do the math. How bad was it? They weren't sure.

It had been a long time since it was this tight.

Biles checked with Owens, who reassured Biles that she was fine, even though she was in third. His wife of 15 months might not have believed him in the moment.

"I've just never been so stressed before," Biles said.

Maybe because she hadn't been pushed — not in a long time anyway — the way Andrade pushed inside an electric Bercy Arena.

Yet the jitters eventually faded. The 27-year-old who is redefining what a gymnast can do and how long

she can do it went to work.

One stoic beam routine and one floor exercise that is unlike anything ever done in her sport later, Biles found herself accepting a gold medal from IOC president Thomas Bach for a second time, this time with Lee standing next to her with a bronze.

Eight years ago in Rio de Janeiro, Biles was a teenage prodigy. Now, she's an icon. One who remains peerless even when she's not perfect.

Biles now has nine Olympic medals, six of them gold. And while she says she doesn't keep track of these things, she sort of does. The GOAT

necklace she rocked in the aftermath isn't a coincidence, even if she maintains she's just "Simone Biles from Spring, Texas, that loves to flip."

Maybe, but she's also the third woman to become a two-time Olympic champion, joining Larisa Latynina of the Soviet Union in 1956 and 1960 and Vera Caslavskaya of Czechoslovakia in 1964 and 1968. Oh, and the oldest to finish atop the all-around podium since then 30-year-old Maria Gorokhovskaya of the Soviet Union won the first-ever Olympic all-around in Melbourne in 1952.

The sport then is not what it is now. The days of "little girls in pretty boxes" are long gone. Biles has fueled that transformation one performance

» see GYMNASTICS | B9

## Feed fans' hunger with more open practices

Dan Quinn loved to see the Washington football fans who filled up bleachers this week at their training camp at Commanders Park.

"It's such a cool reminder to know this historic fan base here and knowing finally a real part of that," the Commanders coach said of his first football exposure to the fan base. "And so to see that, it definitely brought up a good feeling of what is next here. As far as the energy that happens, it's good because what you want at practice is really getting ready to practice performing. And so the more

people, energy, crowd noise of things that can go with that, that's all part of performing. It's a fun part of having that experience."

He couldn't get enough of them.

"The only way to become excellent at something is to practice,"

Quinn told reporters.

"That is the way, and so adding the fan base into that, the excitement, the performing that goes with that, that's really important because you don't want to ever assume, 'OK in the lights, how's it going to go?' But seeing that type of support and enthusiasm with that, that's a really big piece. So yeah, we're really pumped about everybody being here."

Somebody might want to tell him that this may be the best it gets. There's no mistaking who the home team is at Commanders Park training camp.

If it's so great, why not more practice with fans? Why only five open practices, plus two more for season ticket holders? You would think new owners Josh Harris and company would be running buses around the DMV picking up fans for a trip to Ashburn. They could use the distraction from arguing about the team's name.

There is some work to be done to repair this fan base, and more open practices would seem to be a smart gesture.

Circumstances, though, appear to have prevented the Commanders from opening the doors, because in part the doors and other pieces of Commanders Park need repair. The 32-year-old facility is undergoing \$10 million in renovations, building upgrades and the installation of a new grass field after tearing up the old AstroTurf (in 2012, the team announced \$30 million in headquarters upgrades, some of which was paid for by Virginia taxpayers).

All that is considered a roadblock to more fans in attendance. However, if I were this team, I would let the fans play with the heavy equipment if they wanted to.

Also, their preseason schedule — two road games plus joint practices in New York and Miami limits the days they are at Commanders Park for training camp.

» see LOVERRO | B9



THOM LOVERRO

## Kiefer grabs third gold as U.S. wins team fencing for first time

By JAMES ELLINGWORTH  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PARIS | Lee Kiefer became the first American fencer to win three Olympic gold medals as the U.S. got its first-ever team fencing gold in women's foil at the Paris Olympics on Thursday.

The team of two-time individual gold medalist Kiefer, silver medalist Lauren Scruggs, Jacqueline Dubrovich and Maia Weintraub held on for a 45-39 win over Italy in the final.

"A team medal for this Olympic Games was my true dream. I think (in) individual there's a lot of factors and momentum and luck, but as a team, every bout, we've put in so many hours of work together," Kiefer said.

Tears poured down Kiefer's face as the U.S. anthem played. The 30-year-old said she had realized 23 years of effort had paid off. "I met my goals in fencing," she said.

Scruggs faced a late rally from Italy's Arianna Errigo, who cut an eight-point U.S. lead to three, but the 21-year-old took the next three points to close out the win and celebrated with a shout of delight.

"I just didn't want to be that person who loses after a big lead," Scruggs said. "I was like, 'Oh, man, I can't lose for my own pride.' It's kind of what pushed me forward and made me snap out of it."

» see FENCING | B9



American fencers Lee Kiefer, Lauren Scruggs, Jaqueline Dubrovich and Maia Weintraub celebrate after winning the women's team foil final match against Italy during the Olympics in Paris on Thursday. It was the Americans' first team gold.