



A SPRINT TO THE GOLD MEDAL



ASSOCIATED PRESS

American runner Quincy Hall crosses the finish line ahead of Britain's Matthew Hudson-Smith on Wednesday after coming from fourth place on the last bend to win the gold medal in the men's 400-meters at the Olympics in Saint-Denis, France. Story, B14.

CAMPAIGN 2024

Trump, Harris staff armies for battlegrounds

Campaigns fight for advantage in getting out swing-state votes

By SUSAN FERRECHIO
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

The Trump and Harris campaigns are spending millions of dollars on dueling get-out-the-vote efforts in seven swing states that are most likely to determine the November presidential election.

The Harris team has boasted that it has built a huge ground-game advantage in the toss-up states, but the Trump campaign denies this.

"That is absolutely false," Trump campaign spokeswoman Karoline Leavitt said.

Harris aides, most of whom came from the defunct reelection campaign for President Biden, said they had established far more offices and hired many more staffers than Mr. Trump's team in critical battleground states, including Pennsylvania, Georgia, Arizona and Nevada.

The Democratic ticket, with the addition of Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz as Ms. Harris' running mate, is embarking on a campaign swing through those battleground states this week. The candidates stopped in Wisconsin and Michigan on Wednesday.

Ms. Harris, who became the Democratic nominee Friday in an online delegate vote, has enlisted 360,000 more volunteers to canvass for voters and make phone calls, campaign officials said.

Harris campaign officials said they had opened 260 offices and hired 1,300 campaign workers across the seven battleground states, which also comprise North Carolina, Wisconsin and Michigan.

Dan Kanninen, battleground

» see SWING | A5



ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHEERLEADING: Democratic presidential nominee Kamala Harris and running mate Tim Walz are energizing Democrats.

Democrats start tour by shoring up 'blue wall'

By JEFF MORDOCK
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Vice President Kamala Harris and her running mate, Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz, spent their first full day of campaigning Wednesday battling for the "blue wall" states of Wisconsin and Michigan, while the Trump campaign launched a fresh attack on Mr. Walz's military career.

The Democrats started a two-day introductory trip through the swing states, which, along with Pennsylvania, are traditional Democratic strongholds that form a blue wall to propel candidates to the White House. Republican nominee Donald Trump won all three states in 2016, but Democratic candidate Joseph R.

» see CAMPAIGN | A4

► Trump unloads on Harris and Walz in TV interview. A3

TECHNOLOGY

AI weapons stretch U.S. imaginations

By RYAN LOVELACE
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

LAS VEGAS | "Invisibility cloaks" and "digital twins" are among artificial intelligence technologies that could soon give America's enemies weapons beyond people's wildest imaginations, say national security officials gathered Tuesday at the Black Hat USA 2024 hacker conference.

Kathleen Fisher of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency said the invisibility cloak technology exists and the

Pentagon counters 'invisibility cloaks,' 'digital twins' as threats

Pentagon has a program to counter it.

Ms. Fisher displayed the "invisibility cloak" on a presentation slide describing how the Pentagon is working to disrupt state-of-the-art adversarial AI. The Black Hat gathering, considered the premier computer security event of its kind, attracts leading hackers, tech-sector companies and government agencies from

around the world.

The cloak is simply a colorful sweater with a hidden "adversarial" pattern that confuses the most sophisticated identifying programs. A person wearing the cloak is visible to the naked eye and surrounded by peers in an auditorium, but the pattern is undetectable to cutting-edge AI surveillance systems trained to recognize all objects.

"We live in interesting AI times," Ms. Fisher said. "It's kind of the best of times, the worst of times: amazing new technology that we need to figure out how to leverage to make the world a better place, but also massive new threats that we need to figure out how to counter."

GARD duty

DARPA's program defending against the dark arts of AI is called GARD, or Guaranteeing AI Robustness Against Deception.

» see SECURITY | A4

EDUCATION

Textbook publishers step away from gender identity

By SEAN SALAI
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Leading textbook publishers Scholastic and Pearson have distanced themselves from a push to replace biological sex with gender identity in K-12 classroom discussions after the conservative Heritage Foundation publicized their materials.

Heritage education analyst Jonathan Butcher reported in June that Scholastic had published an online Resource

Guide for K-12 "educators, caregivers, and advocates" to accompany its "Read With Pride" series of children's books. Titles in the series include "My Moms Love Me" for "the youngest reader" and LGBTQ graphic novels for young adults.

The guide vanished from Scholastic's website at the end of June without explanation, leaving only the "Read With Pride" page. Based in New York, Scholastic is one of the world's largest publishers of classroom fiction reading.

"The Read With Pride Guide was a

resource for adults available for Pride Month and is not a textbook for students," Anne Sparkman, a Scholastic spokeswoman, told The Washington Times.

An archived web copy of the guide showed that a glossary includes definitions of terms such as "agender" (people with no gender identity), "allocishet" ("people whose gender and sexuality are privileged by society") and "genderfluid" (people with fluctuating gender identities) to instruct adults working with

K-12 students.

"We are experiencing an undeniable, joyous boom of queer literature for children and young adults of all ages, but it can be difficult to stay up to date on the latest quality representation," the Scholastic guide states. "You'll find suggested resources for finding diverse LGBTQIA+ children's and young adult literature included in this guide."

London-based Pearson, the world's

» see BOOKS | A5



ASSOCIATED PRESS

ON THE SHELF: Scholastic and Pearson's decisions to steer away from gender identity materials reflect a sharp cultural divide in America.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

MESSANGER: TikTok plans to use short videos and other methods to promote Chinese communist ideology and narratives worldwide, according to research. It also is accused of collecting sensitive data.

SECURITY

China aims to shape young minds with Tik Tok

By BILL GERTZ
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

The Chinese Communist Party and People's Liberation Army view TikTok as one of several strategic tools for political influence operations and military support actions, according to an open-source intelligence report recently made public.

The report, written by two

former military and intelligence experts, warns that Beijing will use the wildly popular short-video sharing app to target young people in the United States and "shift American narratives subtly to favor a more China-centric worldview."

The researchers examined legislation President Biden signed in April to force TikTok's China-based owner, ByteDance,

to either sell the American operation to a buyer not linked to the Chinese government or be banned nationally. A month later, ByteDance filed a lawsuit saying the law violated the First Amendment.

The Justice Department contended in a legal filing last month that TikTok collects sensitive data on American users' views of religion, abortion and gun control

and censors online material at the direction of ByteDance. The company's American management has denied the charge.

The research report, "TikTok Operations in the United States: Unveiling Strategic Moves, Scientific Insights and What Lies Ahead," reveals the Chinese government's plans to use short

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POLITICS

'Squad' shrinks after Bush suffers setback in Missouri primary. A3

NATION

South Carolina, Georgia left to assess damage caused by Debby. A6

WORLD

Putin blasts Ukraine military's 'large-scale provocation.' A8

SPORTS

NFL eyes 18-game season 3 years after expanding to 17. B14

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THE CHEESESTEAK FACTOR

Nothing is immune from inflation these days. Americans for Tax Reform, a nonprofit taxpayer advocacy group, has revealed the effect of inflation on a certain delicious and iconic Philadelphia treat.

This timely idea was inspired, of course, by the appearance of the newly minted Democratic presidential ticket — Vice President Kamala Harris and Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz — in that fair city on Tuesday night.

“Inflation is felt at every level of the economy. One everyday example is the price change of Philly cheesesteaks,” the group said in a brief report shared with Inside the Beltway.

“Rib-eye steak has gotten much more expensive since Vice President Harris took office. The key component in the beloved sandwich is rib-eye steak. The Bureau of Labor Statistics tracks the price of rib-eye in a category called uncooked beefsteaks which include all ‘steaks other than round or sirloin.’ Since Harris took office in 2021, the price of uncooked beefsteaks has risen over 29% from \$8.25 to \$10.64 per pound,” the report said.

“Hoagie rolls are also much more expensive since Harris took office. The preferred hoagie for cheesesteaks, the rolls have increased in price by over 62% since Harris took office, from \$0.69 per roll to \$1.12,” it continued.

“Philadelphia cheesesteak menu prices are up since Harris took office. Back in January 2021, one could expect to walk into Geno’s Steaks and grab their signature cheesesteak for \$11. Today, that same sandwich is \$14, an increase of 27%. Dalessandro’s cheesesteak price is up 30%, while Pat’s King of Steaks cheesesteaks have gone up by 58%,” the report said.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Americans for Tax Reform reports that the cost of a Philadelphia cheesesteak has risen conspicuously since Vice President Kamala Harris, the Democratic presidential nominee, took office in 2021.

“Don’t just take anyone’s word for it; simply walk over to your local cheesesteak shop and see for yourself,” it said.

PLEDGE HAS AN EDGE

“A majority of Americans still support requiring school children to recite the Pledge of Allegiance daily,” according to a new Rasmussen Reports survey that found that 55% of U.S. adults believe youngsters should be required to say the pledge every morning at school.

Another 30% oppose the idea, while 15% are undecided.

The survey of 1,238 U.S. adults was conducted online and by telephone on July 25 and July 28-29, and released Wednesday.

The first version of the Pledge of Allegiance, by the way, appeared in 1892.

GARDEN LOYALTY

The gardens will miss him, no doubt. The Mount Vernon Ladies’ Association reveals that Dean Norton — Mount Vernon’s revered and official director of horticulture and

livestock — will retire at the end of the year. He has been tending to the assorted needs of flora and fauna for 55 years at the historic Northern Virginia home of George Washington.

Mr. Norton first arrived on the hallowed grounds on June 23, 1969, and has diligently researched 18th-century gardens and gardening practices of America’s early days ever since.

His work can be seen in the restoration of Washington’s botanical garden, upper garden, bowling green, fruit garden and nursery.

“The beauty of the faithfully restored gardens and the meticulously preserved landscapes at Mount Vernon are the fruits of 55 years of his labor of love. Dean’s character, service and dedication reflect the best of Mount Vernon and George Washington,” Margaret Nichols, the 23rd regent of the aforementioned association, said in a written statement.

Mr. Norton said in a recent podcast released by the historic property that “whether it’s at a historic site or modern day, horticulture really hasn’t changed from Jesus Christ’s time. It is working the earth, knowing soils, planning, and watering. Horticulture is the art and science of the cultivation of plants, and that’s what we do here.”

“I went to school to learn about horticulture, but certainly not about history — that’s not part of horticulture,” he continued. “But when you end up at a historic site like Mount Vernon, it comes with the territory.”

Find the podcast — and more — at Mountvernon.org.

FOR THE LEXICON

“Dangerously liberal.”

This evocative phrase comes to us from Republican National Committee Chairman Michael Whatley, who uses it to describe the current tour of Vice President Kamala Harris and running mate Tim Walz, who already have paid an initial call on the great state of Wisconsin.

It is the first of quite a few campaign stops, and the clock is ticking — keep in mind that

Election Day is a mere 89 days away, as of Thursday. Mr. Whatley, however, has a few troubling facts and details to point out.

“Wisconsin families are already paying nearly \$25,000 more per year under Bidenomics. Now, Kamala Harris and Tim Walz want to bring their California dream to the Badger State by raising costs on families, opening the southern border, defunding the police, and confiscating firearms from law-abiding gun owners. The dangerously liberal Harris-Walz agenda is out-of-step with Midwest values, and voters in Wisconsin and across the Heartland will reject their extreme vision for America when they send President Trump back to the White House,” he said.

POLL DU JOUR

- 80% of U.S. adults agree that America would be better off if more Americans worked in manufacturing fields.
- 79% agree that global trade has harmed some American manufacturing industries.
- 77% agree that Americans shouldn’t be allowed to trade with countries that allow unsafe and unfair working conditions to persist.
- 68% agree that U.S. citizens should be free to buy and sell to almost anyone in the world without government interference.
- 65% agree that people in other countries are using trade to steal American technology.
- 63% agree that globalization and trade with other countries has hollowed out the American middle class.
- 61% agree that Americans are cheated by trade agreements with other countries.
- 61% agree that the U.S. becomes richer and safer as its people trade with people in countries throughout the world.
- 55% agree that the U.S. trading with China helps increase global stability and peace.

SOURCE: A CATO INSTITUTE 2024 TRADE AND GLOBALIZATION NATIONAL SURVEY OF 2,000 U.S. ADULTS CONDUCTED FEB. 22-29 AND RELEASED WEDNESDAY.

• Follow Jennifer Harper on X @HarperBulletin, on Facebook @HarperUniverse.

ELECTIONS

Arizona secures first guilty plea in fake electors case from 2020 election

By Lindsey McPherson
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

One of the 18 Republicans charged in Arizona with nine felonies for participating in a fake electors scheme has accepted a deal to plead guilty to a misdemeanor, while another got her charges dropped after entering a cooperation agreement with the prosecution.

Loraine Pellegrino, one of 11 fake electors who signed a document claiming former President Donald Trump won Arizona in 2020, has pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor charge of filing a false document and was sentenced to unsupervised probation with community service.

The sentence “acknowledges her remorse and willingness to make amends,” Joshua Kolsrud, Ms. Pellegrino’s attorney, said in a statement.

Ms. Pellegrino and the other defendants, who include seven Trump associates in addition to the fake electors, had each been charged with nine felony counts of fraud, forgery and conspiracy.

“Loraine Pellegrino’s decision to accept a plea to a lesser charge reflects her desire to move forward and put this matter behind her,” Mr. Kolsrud said. “She has taken full responsibility for her actions, demonstrating her commitment to upholding the law and contributing positively to the community.”

The news of Ms. Pellegrino’s plea deal comes the same week Arizona Attorney General Kris Mayes

announced she would drop the charges against another defendant, former Trump campaign attorney Jenna Ellis, in exchange for her cooperation with the prosecution.

Ellis, according to the indictment, made false claims of widespread election fraud in Arizona and six other states, encouraged the Arizona Legislature to change the outcome of the election and urged then-Vice President Mike Pence to accept the fake electors’ votes as he oversaw the congressional certification of the election on Jan. 6, 2021.

Ms. Mayes said in a statement that the cooperation agreement “represents a significant step forward in our case,” noting Ellis’ “insights are invaluable and will greatly aid the state in proving

its case in court.”

Ms. Mayes added, “As I stated when the initial charges were announced, I will not allow American democracy to be undermined — it is far too important. Today’s announcement is a win for the rule of law.”

The motion Ms. Mayes filed to dismiss the charges against Ellis said the cooperation agreement “is also in the interest of justice as Ellis has already entered into a plea agreement for a felony conviction in Georgia, arising out of the same conspiracy charged in this case.”

In the Georgia case, Ellis pleaded guilty to one felony count of aiding and abetting false statements and writings.



FEDERAL COURTS

Harvard antisemitism lawsuit is a go

A federal judge denied Harvard’s motion to dismiss an anti-discrimination lawsuit, saying the evidence presented so far show that the university “failed its Jewish students” by allowing campus hostilities to escalate.

U.S. District Judge Richard Stearns said Harvard officials often denounced antisemitism in public, but responded weakly or not at all to anti-semitic incidents after the Oct. 7 Hamas massacre.

Harvard’s public assurances “proved hollow when it came to taking disciplinary measures against offending students and faculty,” said Judge Stearns in the 25-page decision.

“In other words, the facts as pled show that Harvard failed its Jewish students,” said Judge Stearns, a Clinton appointee.

The decision means that the lawsuit filed in January by six Harvard students and Students Against Antisemitism in U.S. District Court in Massachusetts may proceed to trial on its claims that Harvard acted with “deliberate indifference,” in breach of its contract with students.

— Valerie Richardson

“The president is proud of his decision,” Ms. Jean-Pierre said.

Mr. Biden dropped out in July after weeks of hand-wringing among Democrats about his age and poor debate performance in late June.

— Tom Howell Jr.

2024 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

Kennedy often put road kill in freezer

It wasn’t just the dead bear. Days after Robert F. Kennedy Jr. admitted to taking a bear carcass from the road and placing it in Central Park as a prank a decade ago, he said that has been picking up roadkill his “whole life” and once had a “freezer full of it” at home.

The comment came as the presidential candidate was leaving an upstate New York courtroom Wednesday in a lawsuit seeking to exclude him from the state’s ballot in November.

The trial has focused on whether Mr. Kennedy improperly listed a residence in New York on his nominating petitions, when he has actually been living in the Los Angeles area since 2014.

But the case has been overshadowed by The New Yorker story about the dead bear cub.

— Associated Press

WHITE HOUSE

Kirby touts ‘intense diplomacy’

The White House on Wednesday said it’s engaged in “intense diplomacy” to avoid a wider conflict in the Middle East as Iran proxies exchange hostilities with Israel.

National Security Council spokesman John Kirby said the U.S. doesn’t want to see an all-out war in the region, and neither do other nations.

“We’re engaged in some pretty intense diplomacy to prevent an escalation in the region,” Mr. Kirby said. “It’s not just us. Many of our allies and partners are likewise involved; let’s see where that takes us.”

At the same time, he said, the U.S. is preparing to defend Israel in case of an attack.

— Tom Howell Jr.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

“You can’t love your country only when you win,” President Biden said of Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump and Mr. Trump’s comments regarding election results.

DEMOCRATS

Biden ‘not confident’ of peaceful transfer of power if Trump loses

President Biden expressed doubts Wednesday that there will be a peaceful transfer of power if former President Donald Trump loses the 2024 election.

“If Trump wins, no, I’m not confident at all,” Mr. Biden said in an interview with CBS News before correcting himself.

“I mean if Trump loses, I’m not confident at all,” he continued.

“We don’t take him seriously. He means it. All that stuff about if we lose there’ll be a bloodbath,” Mr. Biden said. “Look what they’re trying to do now. In the local election districts where people count the votes ... they’re putting people in place in states

where they’re gonna count the votes, right?”

“You can’t love your country only when you win,” he said.

Mr. Biden’s “bloodbath” comment was in reference to remarks Mr. Trump made earlier this year when he said the country would face an economic bloodbath because of the impact Mr. Biden’s policies would have on the auto industry.

At the presidential debate in June, Mr. Trump was asked whether he would accept the results of the November election, to which he responded that he would “if it’s a fair and legal and good election.”

— Jeff Mordock

MALLARD FILLMORE / Bruce Tinsley



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Politics

CAMPAIGN 2024

Trump says Walz out of step with U.S., 'shocked' by pick

Thought Shapiro would be selected

By Tom Howell Jr.
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Former President Donald Trump unloaded on Vice President Kamala Harris and her new running mate, Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz, in a television interview Wednesday, casting them as radicals who will defund the police and cause energy prices to soar.

Speaking to "Fox & Friends," Mr. Trump argued that Mr. Walz is more to the left than Ms. Harris or several well-known progressives.

"He's worse than they are," Mr. Trump said. "He's a smarter version of [Ms. Harris], if you want to know the truth. He's probably about the same as [Sen.] Bernie Sanders."

"Anything transgender, he thinks is great," Mr. Trump said. "He's not where the country is, on anything."

Mr. Trump, like other Republicans, also suggested it was antisemitic and "insulting to Jewish people" that Ms. Harris selected Mr. Walz instead of Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro.

"I was shocked when it came to the final two that she didn't pick Shapiro," Mr. Trump said. "I was surprised."

Media reports suggest Ms. Harris had a better personal rapport with Mr. Walz and it might have been difficult for Mr. Shapiro to leave his job as governor.

Mr. Trump is trying to take his Democratic opponents down a peg as Ms. Harris enjoys a honeymoon period following President Biden's decision to drop his reelection bid.

Polls show that Ms. Harris is competitive with Mr. Trump in key states, and the FiveThirtyEight polling average has her leading Mr. Trump nationally by nearly 2 percentage points.

Ms. Harris selected Mr. Walz on Tuesday and held an ebullient rally with him in Philadelphia, a Democratic stronghold in the must-win state of Pennsylvania.

Mr. Walz introduced himself as a regular guy who is more in touch with America than Mr. Trump's running mate, Sen. J.D. Vance of Ohio.

"Like all regular people I grew up with in the heartland, J.D. Vance studied at Yale, had his career funded by Silicon Valley billionaires and then wrote a best-seller trashing that community," he said. "C'mon, that's not what Middle America is."

Mr. Trump targeted Pennsylvania voters in his interview. He said Ms. Harris is a fracking opponent, which would cost jobs in the Keystone State.

"No fracking, that means your energy prices are going to go through the roof," Mr. Trump said, adding about politicians: "Their first thought is the thought



Former President Donald Trump said Wednesday he was "shocked" when Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz was selected to be the running mate of Vice President Kamala Harris.

they end up doing. She's for no fracking."

Mr. Trump also fielded questions from a supportive crowd at the motorcycle gathering in Sturgis, South Dakota. One man asked the former president about housing costs, and Mr. Trump pivoted back to food and energy prices.

"Bacon has quadrupled, you can't order bacon, you can't order anything," Mr. Trump said, adding that lower energy costs would help other costs come

down.

He also ticked through a number of his campaign ideas, saying there should be no tax on tip wages or Social Security benefits to seniors.

He called Mr. Biden's withdrawal from Afghanistan "the lowest point in the history of our country" and pledged to crack down on illegal immigration.

"We're gonna close up the border," he said. "We're gonna let people come in, but they have to come in legally."

GEORGIA

Glitches mar voter cancellation portal debut

Cyber expert finds new flaw after fixes

By Tom Howell Jr.
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Cyber researchers found a key vulnerability in Georgia's new online portal that appeared to let anyone submit a voter cancellation for any state resident, forcing state officials to fix the issue.

The situation in Georgia, a prized battleground state, added to a rocky rollout of the portal, which is supposed to help the state clear its voter rolls when someone moves out of state or dies.

Upon its July 29 debut, the portal allowed some users to see the last four digits of their Social Security number and the full driver's license number of other people.

That was quickly fixed, yet a cybersecurity researcher named Jason Parker alerted ProPublica and Atlanta News First about a new flaw over the weekend. The bug seemed to let users bypass a part of the portal that required users to submit a driver's license number to support the cancellation request.

Some users tried to cancel the voter registrations for Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger and Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene, Georgia Republican, through the new portal. They were unsuccessful.

Parker, who uses they/them pronouns, showed how to enter a person's name, date of birth and county of residence — easily discoverable information about many people — on an initial screening page before right-clicking to show the browser's HTML code.

Parker deleted code lines about the driver's license number and hit submit, prompting a pop-up window that said: "Your cancellation request has been successfully submitted," and that county election workers would process the request.

Parker told ProPublica it was a "terrible vulnerability to leave open."

ProPublica and Atlanta News First both alerted the Georgia Secretary of State's Office to the problem and held off on publication until it was fixed.

"Incomplete paper and online applications will not be accepted," said Blake Evans, Georgia's elections director. "We have updated the process to include an error message, letting the individual know their submission is incomplete and will not be processed."

The glitches are fueling the nationwide debate over election security with less than three months until Election Day.

Former President Donald Trump, the GOP presidential nominee, and Republicans have made election security a signature issue, saying vulnerabilities at the ballot box would allow illegal immigrants or shady liberal forces to steal elections. In 2020, Mr. Trump lost the state to President Biden by just over 11,000 votes, and made claims of voter fraud that were not validated.

Democrats generally say elections have a solid track record of security and claims of fraud are overblown and used as a smokescreen to explain GOP losses.

The issue is particularly poignant in Georgia. Mr. Trump famously pressured Mr. Raffensperger by phone to dig up enough votes to overturn what the former president called a rigged 2020 electoral victory for Mr. Biden in the state.

A grand jury last year indicted Mr. Trump and his associates on racketeering charges over their post-election maneuvers. The case is in limbo as an appeals court decides whether Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis had an impermissible conflict through a romantic relationship with an investigator on the case.

Yet Mr. Trump continues to attack Mr. Raffensperger, telling an Atlanta crowd on Saturday he is "doing everything possible to make 2024 difficult for Republicans to win."

Mr. Trump fumed over 2020 election changes that allowed for greater use of in-mail or early voting and drop boxes in some states. His claims of voter fraud lasted long after networks declared the race for Mr. Biden, and culminated in the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol.

MISSOURI

Bush loses primary race against challenger Bell

Another moderate candidate defeats 'Squad' member this election cycle

By Kerry Pickett
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Rep. Cori Bush of Missouri is the latest "Squad" member to lose her seat, continuing a string of losses for progressives even as Vice President Kamala Harris and running mate Tim Walz aim to take the party leftward.

Ms. Bush, a progressive firebrand representing Missouri's 1st Congressional District, attempted to capture a third term this election cycle but was foiled by St. Louis prosecutor Wesley Bell, a well-funded opponent. He was backed by the same pro-Israel super PACs that ousted Squad member Rep. Jamaal Bowman in the New York Democratic primary.

Ms. Bush and Mr. Bowman join a growing number of progressive incumbents and challengers who have been defeated by more moderate party members in the last two cycles.

Moderate Democrats have defeated Reps. Marie Newman of Illinois; Jamie McLeod-Skinner of Oregon; Oregon congressional candidate Susheela Jayapal; Portland, Oregon, District Attorney Mike Schmidt; Ohio congressional candidate Nina Turner and former Rep. Andy Levin of Michigan.

Despite her loss, Ms. Bush was defiant toward her detractors who helped Mr. Bell defeat her.

"And let me say this, AIPAC, I'm coming to tear your kingdom down!" she said Tuesday as her supporters cheered her on. "We will keep supporting a free Palestine, a free Congo, a free Sudan, and keep opposing genocide and human rights abuses worldwide."

Ms. Bush's race became one of the most expensive House primaries ever, second only to Mr. Bowman's failed reelection bid. AIPAC and its allies spent nearly \$9 million in super PAC attacks, which accounted for more than 60% of Mr. Bell's total donations.

Justice Democrats, which is part of a progressive coalition called Reject AIPAC, spent about \$1.5 million this cycle to support Ms. Bush.

"Cori Bush is what the future of the Democratic Party looks like. No matter what a singular super PAC can spend to try and buy an election, nothing can take away from the transformational effect



Despite losing her primary race, Rep. Cori Bush, Missouri Democrat, was undaunted. She told her supporters, "We will keep supporting a free Palestine, a free Congo, a free Sudan and keep opposing genocide and human rights abuses worldwide."

Cori Bush has directly had on the people of St. Louis," said Alexandra Rojas, executive director of Justice Democrats.

"No other member of Congress has slept on the steps of the U.S. Capitol to keep their constituents housed, no other member of Congress has testified in front of Congress in their first term about their own abortion story to demand federal protections for abortion rights," she said.

Progressive Democrats expect to have a better result when Squad member Rep. Ilhan Omar of Minnesota faces off against Don Samuels in the Democratic primary on Aug. 13.

The Harris campaign disputes Mr. Walz is as progressive as many say he is, pointing to his record as a military veteran and a lawmaker in Congress who voted with Republicans on key legislation, including legislation that would have prevented the bank bailout after the 2008 financial crisis.

Democrats like Hank Sheinkopf, a

veteran political consultant, said Mr. Walz will not hurt the ticket.

"He is nowhere near as left as [Mr.] Bowman and [Ms.] Bush," he said.

But Jim Pinkerton, a longtime GOP political consultant, said, "Tim Walz was governor of a liberal, even progressive, state during the time of peak 'wokeness.' There's abundant evidence — words, speeches, images, and bills signed — that he was on the cutting edge of 'woke' ideas on transgender, crime, green energy."

He added, "That made him a hero to the left, and powered his selection as a running mate. But at the same time, the wheel has turned and those policies don't look so good in a national context — perhaps not even in Minnesota. But it's too late: As a governor, much more than for Kamala Harris as a senator or as vice president, the buck stops with him."

Additionally, Ms. Harris, the party's presidential nominee, tapped Mr. Walz, governor of Minnesota, to be her running

mate, going with a progressive over the more moderate Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro. The move was seen as doubling down on her own progressive credentials. Republicans view Mr. Walz as a "radical" progressive on policies such as benefits for immigrants without documentation and expanding the social safety net via higher taxes.

Ms. Bush found herself inundated with negative broadcast and digital ads related to her position on Israel and other policy and personal issues.

This included criticism from Democratic leaders in her district for not voting for the White House-backed bipartisan infrastructure law that spent \$429 million on Missouri water infrastructure projects. Ms. Bush said the law did not include certain measures she wanted, such as subsidized child care.

She is also under federal investigation for using campaign funds to hire her husband to provide her security. She has denied wrongdoing.

HOUSE

Democrat calls on Fed to cut interest rates, cites recession risk

By ALEX MILLER
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Rep. Ritchie Torres joined the chorus calling on the Federal Reserve to make emergency cuts to interest rates on Wednesday and warned that without swift action, the Fed would be increasing the risk of a recession.

The lawmaker argued in a letter to Fed Chair Jerome H. Powell that emergency cuts should be made in response to a “softening” in the labor market following a lackluster July jobs report that showed unemployment increase

to 4.3%, the highest rate in nearly two years.

Mr. Torres, New York Democrat, said that the startling jobs report and concerns in the stock market that mirrored the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic and 2008 financial crisis were more than enough reason to make an emergency cut.

“Time is running out. The longer the Fed takes to cut interest rates, the greater the risk of a recession. We may be fast approaching the point of no return,” Mr. Torres wrote. “A recession is not an inevitability. It is a

policy choice over which the Fed has singular power.

“The Fed must stop playing recessionary Russian roulette and save the economy from an increasingly self-destructive monetary policy that has kept interest rates too high for too long,” he wrote.

Mr. Torres’ plea followed sharp losses in the stock market earlier this week that triggered panic and sell-offs among investors.

The markets rebounded Tuesday but slid again on Wednesday. The S&P 500 fell by 0.7%, while the Dow Jones

Industrial Average dropped 0.8% and the Nasdaq slipped 1%.

Some lawmakers, particularly Democrats, have called for an emergency rate cut, in part out of concern that a weakening economy will hurt their election prospects in November.

Mr. Powell opted to not make a cut to interest rates during the Fed’s two-day policy meeting last month, setting a target for a likely rate cut in September during the central bank’s next meeting. He argued during a press conference that lowering interest rates too soon could prompt an increase in inflation.

“I think it’s a difficult judgment to make, and what you see as the judgment of the committee is that that time is drawing near,” he said. “That time could be in September, if the data supports that.”

Meanwhile, many economists are cautioning that emergency action by the Federal Reserve could cause panic among investors, worsening the recent sell-off.

Dean T. Smith, an economist at the College of Charleston, said on X that “an ‘emergency’ cut by the Fed would worsen, not improve, the situation.”

CAMPAIGN

From page A1

Biden flipped them back in 2020.

During their rally in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, the newly minted Democratic ticket sought to connect with Midwestern values. Mr. Walz told the crowd that he grew up in a small Nebraska town where “community means everything.”

“Thank you for articulating what we know it means to live out here in the Midwest, care for your neighbors,” Mr. Walz told the crowd. He said his roots taught him “generosity to my neighbors” and “to work for a common good.”

“Donald Trump sees the world differently than we see it,” he said. “He has no understanding of service because he’s too busy servicing himself again and again, and again and again. This guy weakens our country to strengthen his own hand. He mocks our laws.”

The Trump campaign quickly sought to discredit Mr. Walz’s military service, which the Republican ticket hopes will be a weakness. They pointed out that Mr. Walz ended his 24-year career in the Army National Guard to run for Congress in 2005, just before the unit he led deployed to Iraq.

“When Tim Walz was asked by his country to go to Iraq, do you know what he did? He dropped out of the Army and allowed his unit to go without him — a fact that he’s been criticized for aggressively by a lot of the people that he served with,” said Sen. J.D. Vance of Ohio, Mr. Trump’s running mate and a Marine Corps veteran who served in Iraq.

“I think it’s shameful to prepare your unit to go to Iraq, to make a promise that you’re going to follow through, and then to drop out right before you actually have to go,” Mr. Vance said at a press conference in Michigan.

In a move underscoring how critical Wisconsin is to victory, Mr. Vance held a coinciding rally a few short miles away from the Harris-Walz event. Speaking at a factory in Eau Claire, Mr. Vance depicted Ms. Harris as a liberal elitist who looks down on their values.

“I think to lead this country, you should feel some gratitude for it and some admiration for the people who actually make this country run,” Mr. Vance said. Sometimes, I hear Kamala Harris talk about the history of the country, and she likes to put it down. I don’t know that she actually admires the people who work in this factory. I hope she does, but I don’t really see or hear that gratitude when she speaks.

“I actually care about the people standing behind me, and I think they feel like I care for them, and I think they care for me too,” he said to applause.

Mr. Vance blasted Mr. Walz’s handling of the riots in Minneapolis after the death of George Floyd in May 2020. As governor, Mr. Walz waited three days while businesses burned before calling in the National Guard.

“I’m scandalized by this guy pretending he stands for working people,” Mr. Vance said. “Working people need to live in a community with public safety. Working people need to build a business and know that some hoodlum isn’t going to come and burn it to the ground because of some political issue.”

Ms. Harris acknowledged the toll inflation has taken on communities across the country and promised that bringing down prices would be a “Day One priority.” She blamed soaring consumer costs on corporations engaging in illegal price gouging.

“Strengthening our economy and building up the middle class will be the defining goal of my presidency because, you see, Coach Walz and I know that when America’s middle class is strong,



Democratic presidential nominee Kamala Harris and her running mate, Tim Walz, set off Wednesday on an attempt to disseminate an image of Midwestern values that will benefit “blue wall” swing states.

America is strong,” she said. Mr. Walz was a high school football coach before running for office.

She said Project 2025, a conservative blueprint for governance proposed by The Heritage Foundation, is nothing more than a plan to weaken America’s middle class by giving tax breaks to billionaires and corporations.

Mr. Trump has distanced himself from Project 2025.

Her campaign, Ms. Harris said, is a fight to preserve the promise of America, which allows the children of working-class parents to someday run for president. She said she and Mr. Walz are proof of that promise.

“Two middle-class kids, one a daughter of Oakland, California, who was raised by a working mother and had a summer job at McDonald’s. The other, a son of the Nebraska plains who grew up working on a farm. Only in America is it possible for them together to make it all the way to the White House,” she said.

Ms. Harris and Mr. Walz traveled to Michigan for a campaign rally Wednesday night and were scheduled to hold an event Thursday morning in an effort to bring rank-and-file union members back into the Democratic fold.

They will then travel to the swing states of Arizona and Nevada. Campaign officials said they raised \$36 million in the first 24 hours after Mr. Walz was announced as the running mate.

Mr. Vance will be following them for much of their travels and holding competing events.

Ms. Harris’ path to victory runs through Pennsylvania, Michigan and Wisconsin. Polling is tight in all three states, but Wisconsin is a dead heat. A survey by Redfield & Wilson shows 43% support each for Ms. Harris and Mr. Trump.

In Michigan, Mr. Trump is up by 1 percentage point, 42% to 41%, and has a lead over Ms. Harris in Pennsylvania, 46% to 44%.

Vice presidential candidates rarely alter a race, but Mr. Walz and Mr. Vance were picked to reassure Midwestern voters that a homegrown son would

represent their interests in the White House. Just as Mr. Walz hails from the solidly Democratic state of Minnesota, Mr. Vance comes from the Republican haven of Ohio.

Both presidential candidates are betting that they will exude Midwestern appeal that will play well in the blue wall states, if for no other reason than geographic proximity.

The Trump campaign has sought to undercut Mr. Walz’s appeal by suggesting that his support for gun control and expensive social programs makes him a “West Coast wannabe.”

Meanwhile, the Harris campaign says Mr. Vance abandoned his Midwestern roots to become a Silicon Valley venture capitalist.

The blue wall states are increasingly diverse, complicating both campaigns’ efforts to connect with voters. Michigan is home to a large number of Arab and Muslim Americans who are furious with the Biden administration’s strong support for Israel and delay in calling for a cease-fire in its war with Hamas in the Gaza Strip.

Mr. Biden won Michigan by 154,000 votes in 2020, but the state has more than 242,000 Muslim voters, according to the U.S. Religion Census.

While Arab leaders in the state have made it clear that they won’t support Mr. Trump, they have pledged to take out their anger on Ms. Harris. She was the first member of the Biden administration to call for a cease-fire, but a group of Muslim and Arab American community leaders operating as Abandon Biden says that isn’t enough.

On Wednesday, group members said they worried that Mr. Walz would not push hard enough for a cease-fire and dismissed his selection as a facade.

“Our concern moving forward is that the party and the campaign are relying more on the appearance of change rather than any actual plan for it, specifically with regards to foreign policy, which directly impacts domestic policy as we have witnessed over 10 months,” Abandon Biden said in a statement.

• Lindsey McPherson contributed to this report.



Having trouble paying your bills? Meet the culprits

If you’re having trouble paying your bills today — much less saving any money — you’re not alone.

The average savings rate in June was down to just 3.4% of income, less than half the pre-pandemic rate and almost two-thirds below the long-run average of about 8.5%. Besides 2022, that’s the lowest rate since the 2008 financial crisis and the Great Recession.

But it’s not your fault. It’s the direct result of a bloated federal budget squeezing out the family budget. And you can blame Washington for that.

While both political parties are to blame for overspending, the two biggest culprits over the last 3½ years have been President Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris. They’ve led a reckless spending spree that has increased the federal debt by \$7.4 trillion and burned through another \$1 trillion of cash at the Treasury during their time in office.

Those trillions in runaway spending have been financed with borrowed money, much of it created out of thin air by the Federal Reserve. This gave the Treasury more dollars to spend, but everyone’s dollar thereby lost value. It’s like pouring water into whiskey — it increases the volume of liquid, but it also decreases the whiskey’s proof.

The trillions of dollars in government spending, borrowing and creating money caused the dollar to lose one-fifth of its value in less than four years while pushing up interest rates. The combination of higher prices and higher borrowing costs has caused the monthly mortgage payment on a median-priced home to double since Mr. Biden and Ms. Harris took office.

While Mr. Biden has rightly been blamed for his inflationary economic agenda, Ms. Harris is just as responsible for the current cost-of-living crisis.

As vice president, she presides over the U.S. Senate and casts tiebreaking votes, something she has done more than any other vice president in history. Ms. Harris bears disproportionate responsibility for the fallout from this administration’s legislative agenda because she has done so much to ram it through a divided Congress.

Both the deceptively named Inflation Reduction Act and the American Rescue Plan Act were stalled in the Senate until Ms. Harris broke each tie to ensure they became law. These were two of the three largest spending bills of the Biden administration, and they added trillions of dollars to the national debt.

Ms. Harris has also supported every other major spending bill signed into law by Mr. Biden, all of which supercharged inflation, pushing up prices at the fastest pace in over 40 years. By January 2025, the Biden-Harris administration will have increased the federal debt and decreased the Treasury’s cash on hand by more than any other administration in history.

But this fiscal mismanagement has destroyed family finances just as much as federal finances. American families are drowning in \$1.1 trillion of credit card debt and paying over \$240 billion annually on those outstanding balances.

Most Americans today don’t even have an emergency fund to cover an unexpected expense such as replacing a refrigerator or car transmission or an emergency-room bill. So many young adults can’t afford to make it on their own today that they are having to live with their parents at the highest rate since the end of the Great Depression in 1940.

This cost-of-living crisis was caused by the failed public policy that Mr. Biden and Ms. Harris have implemented over the last 3½ years. Profligate spending in Washington has made it a struggle just to put gas in the tank and groceries in the back seat. Americans can’t escape this reality any more than Mr. Biden or Ms. Harris can escape culpability for it.

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

SECURITY

From page A1

The program investigated adversarial AI to learn how to stop AI-generated crime and chaos. Ms. Fisher, who leads DARPA’s information innovation office, said the GARD program discovered that hackers could pay \$60 to put data on the internet to override AI developers’ “large language” models.

Large language models undergird many popular generative AI tools, such as OpenAI’s ChatGPT.

The invisibility cloak was crafted by a research team from the University of Maryland, separately from DARPA, with the assistance of Facebook AI. The researchers published a paper in 2020 explaining their work to “generate an adversarial pattern that, when placed over an object either digitally or physically, makes that object invisible to detectors.”

Asked whether DARPA was interested in developing its own AI tricks, a spokesperson told The Washington Times, “You have to understand how tools can be broken in order to develop defenses.”

Hackers and cybersecurity professionals see promise and profit where the U.S. government sees peril.

Nvidia engineering manager Bartley Richardson said the world is “not that far away” from creating

a digital twin for each of the hundreds of hackers assembled at Black Hat’s AI summit on Tuesday.

A digital twin is a virtual replica of a person or a real-world asset or system. Nvidia, an AI powerhouse whose market capitalization exceeded \$3 trillion in June, is hard at work building digital twins. In 2021, Nvidia began working with BMW on the technology, including exploring how to make a digital twin of an automotive factory.

The technology would have broad applications, such as gaming and cybersecurity. World Wide Technology co-founder Jim Kavanaugh told the hacker conference that digital twin technology would prove useful for health care and for recording and preserving DNA.

Cybersecurity company Balbix unveiled BIX, an AI assistant for cyber risk and exposure management.

Balbix founder Gaurav Banga demonstrated how the AI assistant tailors answers for professionals working to recover from a cyberattack. He showed the chat assistant delivering specific actions for an information technology worker to patch problems while providing details on the financial impact on the company’s bottom line for a different company executive.

For the intelligence community, the fear is that digital twins and AI assistants are ripe for

cyberattacks. Hackers could manipulate real people’s digital clones and AI assistants.

Kathryn Knerler, the U.S. intelligence community’s chief information security officer, warned that such technology will make phishing attacks more difficult to stop. Phishing refers to scammers’ efforts to dupe people into revealing sensitive information, frequently through emails with malicious links.

“When I heard the idea of digital twins this morning and the AI assistant just recently here, of course I thought about, ‘Well, what a great thing to target to be able to figure out how do I use all this great information to create the perfect phishing attack?’” Ms. Knerler said. “And not only that but to do it at scale. So knowing the person you’re going after, knowing their language, and then knowing their habits — all those put together into a great attack.”

National security officials repeatedly sought to assure cybersecurity professionals that they are not naive to the threats posed by cutting-edge technology employed by hackers and legitimate businesses. Ms. Fisher said her office was focused on deepfakes before the term existed.

She said this year that a DARPA program built to detect deepfakes is focused on commercializing the technology at the direction of Congress so people can better understand whether they are viewing manipulated content.

SWING

From page A1

states director for the Harris-Walz campaign, said in a memo on Wednesday that Democrats have built a “massive ground game advantage” in the blue wall states of Wisconsin, Michigan and Pennsylvania.

“In Wisconsin, we have the most formidable door-knocking operation the state has ever seen, with 48 coordinated offices across 43 counties, including 32 in counties that Trump won in 2020,” Mr. Kanninen said. “We have more than 160 full-time coordinated staffers on the ground knocking doors, making phone calls, and engaging their friends and neighbors to support Kamala Harris and Democrats up and down the ticket — including making nearly 200,000 door knocks, calls and texts in the first week of the Harris campaign alone. We have invested in campaign infrastructure across Wisconsin and are competing everywhere because we know we need to narrow the margins in rural areas to win.”

In Michigan, he said, more than 9,000 volunteers have signed up since Ms. Harris rose to the top of the ticket.

The Harris team said it is far exceeding the Trump campaign’s get-out-the-vote effort, which it claims has opened few offices in swing states.

“This battleground advantage will almost certainly be decisive in a race likely to be decided by just tens of thousands of votes,” a Harris campaign staffer told reporters.

Trump campaign officials scoffed at the Harris team’s claim that they are doing little to get out the vote in the toss-up states and said they have had



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Campaign officials for Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump scoff at their opponents’ claims that they are doing little to get out the vote in the toss-up states and said they have had offices open and staff working “for months.”

offices open and campaign staff working “for months.”

In Michigan, where 15 electoral votes are at stake, the Trump campaign has opened more than 20 offices and recruited thousands of “Trump Force 47” volunteers to knock on doors and participate in other get-out-the-vote activities, a Trump campaign official said.

In a sign of enthusiasm for Mr. Trump, more than 100 volunteers showed up last month when the campaign opened an office in Kalamazoo, considered the bluest county in southwest Michigan.

More offices are opening every week in the state, and the Trump campaign is coordinating with the Republican House and Senate campaign staff in Michigan, where they are working to flip a Senate seat and several House seats.

Mr. Trump won Michigan by less than half a percentage point in 2016 and

lost the state by less than 3 points in 2020.

Trump campaign aides said the Harris team is bragging about its battleground state staffing because it is losing to the former president on the most critical issues to voters.

“Our message isn’t look at how many people have signed up to knock doors for us,” said Victoria LaCivita, Mr. Trump’s Michigan campaign spokeswoman. “Our message is that we have a plan to fight inflation. We know your grocery bills are too high, and this is what we’re going to do about it. We know the southern border is a problem, and this is what we’re going to do about it. They don’t want to talk about any of that because they created a mess.”

The Trump campaign said Republicans have 40 field offices in Wisconsin and 20 in Pennsylvania.

The Harris team has zeroed in on

Georgia, a state that weeks ago appeared to be increasingly out of reach for the Democrats when Mr. Biden led the ticket.

Strategists say Ms. Harris, the first Black female presidential nominee, has a much greater chance than Mr. Biden of winning Georgia. Black voter turnout in Atlanta and its suburbs is critical for Democrats.

In mid-July, Mr. Trump led Mr. Biden by several percentage points. The latest polling, matching Mr. Trump with Ms. Harris, shows the presidential race in Georgia is tied.

The Harris campaign, vying for Georgia’s 16 electoral votes, is operating 24 campaign offices in the state.

Mr. Trump won Georgia in 2016 but lost to Mr. Biden in 2020 by fewer than 12,000 votes.

“We expect it to be as close and competitive this year,” a Harris campaign staffer told reporters. “And that’s why we have the team and the operation in place to make sure that we can turn out every single Harris voter in the state of Georgia.”

The Trump campaign has enlisted Turning Point Action’s help in getting out the vote in battleground states. The group is hosting rallies and registering voters “in crucial districts.”

The group is also working to bolster Republican participation in mail-in voting, which expanded dramatically in 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The group’s “Chase the Vote” initiative is recruiting more than 1,000 field organizers to persuade voters to mail in their ballots in the battleground states.

In 2020, 60% of Democrats and 32% of Republicans reported that they had voted by mail, according to the Survey of the Performance of American Elections.

In Michigan, registered voters can vote by mail with an absentee ballot beginning Sept. 26. Georgia voters can request an absentee ballot, which can be returned by mail, beginning Aug. 19.

“Ballot chasing is our newest approach to contacting voters who have already received mail-in ballots to encourage them to mark their ballots and make a plan to vote,” Turning Point Action officials said on their website. “Our initiative will have huge numbers of door knockers to win the ballot game at the mailboxes.”

Andrew Kolvet, a spokesman for Turning Point Action, said the “Chase the Vote” initiative is using a data-rich app to target pro-Trump voters who are less likely to participate in the election “to help them get a plan to vote” by mail or in person.

Turnout for America, a super PAC formed on July 17, will pump additional money into the battleground states. According to a memo obtained by The New York Times, Turnout for America has trained at least 945 Trump canvassers in all seven battleground states. It aims to raise \$45 million for get-out-the-vote efforts.

The head of the PAC, Christopher Buskirk, a close friend of Trump’s running mate, Sen. J.D. Vance of Ohio, did not respond to a media inquiry.

Team Harris is also getting help from super PACs.

Future Forward, a California-based super PAC aligned with Democrats, announced a \$50 million ad buy for Ms. Harris across six battleground states. The ad will air over the next three weeks to proclaim “Kamala is ready” and tout her accomplishments as California’s attorney general, U.S. senator and vice president.

TIKTOK

From page A1

videos and other methods to promote communist ideology and narratives worldwide.

A 2022 study conducted by Hu Lianguan with the Propaganda and Traditional Warfare Department of Hunan University states that TikTok’s extensive audience, vivid imagery and rich content are ideally suited for educating college students ideologically and politically.

The Chinese scholar’s study is titled “The Application and Enlightenment of TikTok in Ideological and Political Education for College Students.” It states that TikTok can be used to expand the channels for delivering ideological education to Americans born in the 1990s, a critical demographic target.

China, under President Xi Jinping, has reinvigorated a communist ideology it calls “socialism with Chinese characteristics.” This ideological approach was shelved in the 1980s to modernize the weak economy.

A 2023 government-funded report from the School of Marxism at Hefei University of Technology said China will enhance its global power by promoting cultural and ideological narratives.

“For TikTok, this could translate into a tailored approach where content is curated or suppressed based on strategic ideological priorities from Beijing, potentially manipulating public opinion inside the United States and possibly allied countries,” the report said.

For the People’s Liberation Army, TikTok supports a vital element of its 2014 information warfare strategy called three warfares: public opinion warfare, psychological warfare and legal warfare, the last of which is commonly called “lawfare.”

PLA control and influence over ByteDance through the civil-military “fusion policy” will be used for operations short of open warfare, the report said.

“The overlap between the Three Warfares doctrine and TikTok’s observed operations and techniques in the United States is perhaps the most noteworthy of all,” the Chinese report said.

The American research report was produced by the CCP BioThreats Initiative, a think tank. Its authors are Ryan



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For China’s People’s Liberation Army, TikTok supports a vital element of its 2014 information warfare strategy called three warfares: public opinion warfare, psychological warfare and legal warfare, the last of which is commonly called “lawfare.”

Clarke, a strategic intelligence analyst, and L.J. Eads, a former Air Force intelligence officer.

“The recent findings by the Justice Department align with our research, which reveals that the [Chinese Communist Party] strategically targets Americans, including college students, to push its ideological and political narratives,” Mr. Eads told The Washington Times.

China’s efforts to “leverage platforms like TikTok to gather sensitive data and manipulate content reflect its broader goal of using discourse power to influence global public opinion,” he said.

The initiative’s research study also said it had found “considerable convergence between overt PLA doctrine on information warfare that was published in 2015 (Three Warfares) ... the founding of TikTok in 2016, and subsequent Chinese scientific advances in the strategic types of influence operations used by TikTok in 2023.”

Asked about the initiative’s findings, TikTok spokesman Alex Haurek said in

a statement that “this politically driven study is pure fiction and not worth commenting on.”

Building U.S. support

The report suggests that Chinese lawfare has helped TikTok build support for its case against divestment from U.S. groups, including the American Civil Liberties Union.

China’s information operations through TikTok are not seeking solely to spread official propaganda but also involve more nuanced and sophisticated long-term programs of shaping Americans’ perceptions and cultural attitudes over time, especially with U.S. youths, the report said. TikTok is thought to have about 170 million users in the United States.

Former President Donald Trump, the Republican presidential nominee, joined TikTok two months ago and now boasts 9 million followers. Democratic nominee Kamala Harris also has joined the platform. The two candidates’ use of TikTok highlights how both major political

parties see the app as a potent political tool for reaching younger voters.

Public opinion data shows that the most intensive users of TikTok are those ages 18 to 34.

The CCP BioThreats Initiative report said the legal battle over banning TikTok could become a significant election issue among younger voters.

“The strategic utilization of the TikTok platform inside the United States ... underscores significant risks to the intellectual freedom, privacy and information integrity within America’s digital landscape,” the report states. “These risks are manifold, encompassing potential breaches of data privacy, the surveillance of users, manipulation of content and the systematic promotion of specific political narratives aligned with the interests of Beijing.”

Gordon Chang, a China expert with the Gatestone Institute, said the Chinese government has weaponized TikTok as an “instrument of war” by waging what Beijing calls “unrestricted warfare” on

America.

“If you have TikTok on a device, you are getting what the Communist Party of China wants you to see,” Mr. Chang said. “The Chinese regime has used its algorithm to disseminate pro-Hamas disinformation, Russian narratives about the Ukraine war, and other pro-CCP propaganda.”

Collecting data

The Justice Department court filing on July 26 said information about the collection of Americans’ data was based on the discovery of a software tool that U.S. employees of TikTok and ByteDance can use to gather user information.

The Chinese can use TikTok to track the locations of federal employees and contractors, build dossiers of personal information for blackmail and conduct corporate espionage, the document states.

“TikTok provides the Chinese government the means to undermine U.S. national security in two principal ways: data collection and covert content manipulation,” the document said.

Data collected on Americans includes age, phone numbers, precise locations, internet addresses, devices used, phone contacts, social media connections, private messages sent through TikTok and videos watched, the document said.

Casey Blackburn, a senior U.S. intelligence official, wrote in a filing supporting the government’s position that intelligence reporting “further demonstrates that ByteDance and TikTok Global have taken action in response to PRC demands to censor content outside of China.”

The research report by the CCP BioThreats Initiative predicted that a forced divestment of TikTok from ByteDance would likely lead to Chinese government retaliation and could speed up the decoupling of the two economies. A forced divestment also could destabilize the last few areas of bilateral cooperation, such as on climate change, between Beijing and Washington.

“Even in the event of an eventual forced ByteDance divestment of TikTok, it is unclear if Beijing will relinquish this hard-earned asset, or if Beijing will attempt to reinsert itself into TikTok’s new American structure through other indirect means,” the report said.

BOOKS

From page A1

largest academic publisher, removed editorial guidelines highlighting “genderism” and “antiracism” from its website last year.

In a June 2023 staff editorial, the New York Post said the guidelines and related videos disappeared shortly after Mr. Butcher reported about them.

Pearson’s website continues to advertise a sociology book that Mr. Butcher said promotes “the use of gender identity over biological sex to describe individuals” in student-teacher conversations.

A Pearson spokesperson said in an email that the book is intended only for college students and advanced teenagers. The email noted that Pearson sold its K-12 publishing business in 2019.

“States and school districts can still purchase select college level Pearson

textbooks they deem appropriate for their advanced high school courses,” the spokesperson said. “However, the book referenced is not available for adoption in the high schools or the K-12 market.”

Mr. Butcher said he wasn’t surprised that Scholastic and Pearson removed their most controversial materials from public access.

He pointed to a Pew survey released in February that found half of K-12 teachers said students shouldn’t learn about gender in school. About 33% of teachers said children should know that their gender identity can differ from the sex assigned at birth.

“The pushback on these ideas is strong, and the publishers don’t know how to defend them when reporters, policy analysts or parents question what they are doing,” Mr. Butcher said. “Why would you show something to teachers and parents if you didn’t expect it to

reach students?”

According to the archived website, Scholastic’s Reading With Pride Resource Guide includes as sources the left-leaning Southern Poverty Law Center and the Trevor Project, an LGBTQ suicide hotline.

Last year, the conservative Consumers’ Research flagged the Trevor Project with a “woke alert” for hosting a chatroom for gender-questioning adolescents without age verification procedures.

In his June report, Mr. Butcher pointed out that the SPLC’s education arm decries “binary notions” of sexuality and offers “tools and practices” for discussing gender identity with “students of all ages.”

The Times has reached out to the SPLC and the Trevor Project for comment.

Some conservative parental rights groups said most parents don’t want

their children experimenting with gender transitions in grade school and middle school.

“Not everyone is going along with this illusion that there are more than two sexes, both of which are biologically determined,” said Sheri Fowl, founder and president of U.S. Parents Involved in Education. “In fact, resistance is building.”

As the November elections approach, sexuality has become a hot-button political issue.

The Biden administration has moved to redefine biological sex as gender identity in federal civil rights statutes. Such changes could require K-12 schools to let transgender and nonbinary students use the pronouns, restrooms and sports facilities of their choice.

Public school districts nationwide have enacted policies instructing teachers to support students in identifying as their gender of choice on campus without informing unsupportive parents

of the change.

On the other side, more than a half-dozen conservative states, including Arkansas and Utah, have adopted laws requiring schools to use the sex on students’ birth certificates unless they receive parental consent to do otherwise.

Jonathan Zimmerman, a professor in the history of education at the University of Pennsylvania, said the Scholastic and Pearson controversies reflect the “fundamental fact” that Americans disagree about the meanings of sex and gender.

“The real question is whether we have enough faith in our teachers and in ourselves to air those disagreements in our schools,” Mr. Zimmerman said. “I understand why parents are concerned that their children might be indoctrinated with one view or another, but the answer to that problem is not to remove the issue from discussion.”

Nation

HIGHER EDUCATION

Public colleges seek common ground with GOP after DEI bans

By SEAN SALAI

THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Government officials overseeing public colleges in conservative states say they're looking for new common ground with Republican lawmakers who have banned diversity, equity and inclusion programs.

Officials from Iowa, Idaho and Utah said Tuesday during a higher education panel in Washington that they have worked to build bridges with lawmakers and understand their concerns in recent years.

"Building that trust takes time, building that trust takes effort," said Geoffrey Landward, Utah's commissioner of higher education.

Utah's legislative Republican supermajority passed a law this year that bans DEI offices and instruction based on "personal identity characteristics" at state campuses.

That law took effect on July 1 and forced the University of Utah, Southern Utah University, Utah State University

Officials work to balance concerns with interests of professors

and Weber State University to close their DEI offices and cultural centers.

Alabama, Iowa, Florida, Texas and North Dakota have enacted similar policies over the past two years. Two bills are working through the Missouri Legislature, and Alabama recently passed a DEI ban that will take effect Oct. 1.

Officials from all 50 states were in Washington this week for the annual conference of the State Higher Education Executive Officers Association, a network of government agencies overseeing public colleges.

Those participating on a panel of conservative states with DEI bans said they stressed the need for an educated workforce in struggling rural areas to state lawmakers who have threatened to cut higher education funding.

"They want us to support students, everybody wants that," said Rachel Boon, chief academic officer of the Iowa Board of Regents.

Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds, a Republican, signed an education funding bill with tightened DEI restrictions into law on May 9.

Those restrictions forbid public universities from taking official positions on "microaggressions," "social justice," "intersectionality" and "neo-pronouns" for transgender and nonbinary students.

The law also bans "any effort to promote or promulgate policies and procedures designed or implemented with reference to race, color, or ethnicity."

In March, Idaho enacted a ban on public universities requiring prospective students and employees to adhere to "diversity statements."

T.J. Bliss, chief academic officer for the Idaho State Board of Education, said it's been challenging to establish a common definition of DEI as lawmakers push to end it.

He noted that some proposed bills have used the term interchangeably with

critical race theory and social-emotional learning, two other concepts that conservatives have blamed for fostering reverse discrimination against straight White students.

"So it's a little schizophrenic," Mr. Bliss said. "We don't know what they want."

The bans come as Republican lawmakers in right-leaning states have passed a slew of bills targeting "divisive concepts" related to race and gender identity in public education.

Utah's Mr. Landward said that while some conservatives view higher education as the enemy, "everyone understands" the need for colleges to train skilled workers and grant trade certifications.

He said he works in conversations with lawmakers to balance these concerns with the interests of college professors so that thousands of them don't "storm the capitol" in Salt Lake City.

In addition to state DEI restrictions,

public colleges have struggled to adjust to a Supreme Court ruling last year that ended race-based college admissions.

According to others who attended the SHEEO panel on Tuesday, colleges have worked to ensure a racially diverse student body through alternative means.

These include need-based acceptance policies based on income and direct admission policies accepting the top grade earners from public high schools in diverse school districts.

Dana Richardson, executive director of the Oregon Council of Presidents, said she favors screening college application essays individually to look for diverse backgrounds and experiences.

"It requires a lot of time and resources to go through each application, but it's worth it," Ms. Richardson said.

Michael DeJesus, director of student success and access for the Southern Regional Education Board, said it's also important to emphasize equal opportunity to lawmakers. His private-public compact produces research for universities in 16 states and the District of Columbia.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tropical Storm Debby was expected to restrengthen and turn toward the South Carolina coastline before its center makes landfall late Wednesday or early Thursday.

WEATHER

Debby churns over coast of Georgia, Carolinas

By JEFFREY COLLINS AND JOHN MINCHILLO

ASSOCIATED PRESS

HUGER, S.C. | Days of rain from Tropical Storm Debby forced the deluged-hardened residents of a South Carolina community to begin the near-ritualistic task of assessing damage left behind by the storm still spinning over the Atlantic Ocean and influencing thunderstorms from the East Coast to the Great Lakes.

Gene Taylor waited Wednesday afternoon for a few inches of water to drain back out of his house as high tide passed at his home along French Quarter Creek in Huger, about 15 miles northeast of Charleston.

Mr. Taylor saw the potential for flooding last week and started moving things out or up higher in his home. It's a lesson learned the hard way. Mr. Taylor estimates this is the fourth time he has had floodwater in his home in nine years. "To save everything, we've learned from the past it's better to be prepared for the worst. And unfortunately, I think we got it," he said.

The National Hurricane Center warned that isolated areas could see

Storm floods streets, downs trees and power lines as it meanders north

up to 25 inches of rain from Tropical Storm Debby.

Debby also rained on residents all the way up to the Great Lakes and New York and New Jersey.

Moisture from the tropical storm strengthened another storm system Tuesday evening, which caused strong thunderstorms, according to National Weather Service meteorologist Scott Kleebauer.

"We had a multi-round period of showers and thunderstorms that kind of scooted from Michigan eastward," Mr. Kleebauer said.

As much as 6 inches of rain fell in parts of New Jersey in less than four hours.

Emergency officials warned of potential flash flooding, flying drones with loudspeakers in some New York City neighborhoods to tell people in basement apartments to be ready to flee at a moment's notice. A number of water

rescues were reported in New York City and surrounding areas.

Nearly 330,000 customers remained without power in Ohio by Wednesday afternoon after severe storms there, according to PowerOutage.us.

Meanwhile, the "imminent failure" of a dam in southeast Georgia was threatening to swamp a mobile home park and other areas downstream, the National Weather Service said in a flash flood warning Wednesday afternoon. Cypress Lake Dam is in Bulloch County, about 50 miles northwest of Savannah.

"If the dam breaks, flash flooding will occur immediately downstream of the dam," the weather service said.

In South Carolina, Gov. Henry McMaster said the state was just entering Act 2 of a three-act play.

"We've been lucky so far. Things have not been as bad as they could have been," Mr. McMaster said of heavy rain that damaged over 60 homes but did not

cause significant problems to roads or water systems.

Act 2 is overnight into Thursday when Debby moves back onshore and heavy rain returns, this time to the northern part of the coast and inland. An additional 4 to 8 inches of rain could fall, said John Quagliarello, a meteorologist with the weather service in Columbia.

"It may not be as catastrophic as what we were saying, but we still think as these rain bands develop they could sit over the same area for long periods of time, produce a lot of rainfall and a lot of flooding," he said.

The final act may come next week if enough rain falls upstream in North Carolina to cause major flooding along rivers as it flows to the Atlantic Ocean.

The center of Debby was over the Atlantic Ocean on Wednesday afternoon, 55 miles east-southeast of Charleston, the National Hurricane Center said. The storm is expected to make a second landfall in North Carolina or South Carolina late Wednesday or early Thursday.

Debby first made landfall as a Category 1 hurricane early Monday along the Gulf Coast of Florida.

ILLINOIS

Governor calls for sheriff's resignation

Deputy faces 3 counts of murder

By JOHN O'CONNOR

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SPRINGFIELD, ILL. | Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker called Wednesday for the resignation of the sheriff whose deputy is accused of fatally wounding Sonya Massey in her home last month after the Black woman called 911 for help.

Mr. Pritzker, a Democrat, said Sheriff Jack Campbell, a Republican, should step down because "the sheriff has failed."

Sean Grayson, 30, faces three counts of first-degree murder, aggravated battery with a firearm and official misconduct in the July 6 shooting death of Massey, 36.

Sheriff Campbell, who hired Mr. Grayson for the Sangamon County Sheriff's Department in May 2023, reiterated his intent Wednesday to stay in the job.

"He has failed to explain how he ended up hiring this deputy sheriff who has been fired from other departments," Mr. Pritzker said of Sheriff Campbell at an event in Chicago. "He failed to put forward reforms that clearly need to be made, training and other reforms and still has failed to meet with the Massey family."

There is no evidence Mr. Grayson was fired from any previous job. And Mr. Pritzker did not elaborate on what "training and other reforms" Sheriff Campbell should have implemented since the killing.

Mr. Grayson has come under scrutiny because — before becoming a law enforcement officer — he was kicked out of the Army a decade ago for the first of two drunken driving arrests within a year. His law enforcement career included six jobs in four years, during which he received some reviews that indicated he needed more training and had one disciplinary problem.

Mr. Grayson was fired on July 17 for violating use-of-force standards by shooting Massey rather than taking nonlethal action when he felt threatened by a pan of hot water she was holding, according to authorities.

The sheriff signaled Wednesday that he would stay on the job.

"I was overwhelmingly elected to lead the sheriff's office through both good times and bad," Sheriff Campbell said in a statement. "I am fully prepared to continue leading my office and serving the residents of Sangamon County through this difficult period, ensuring we learn from this tragedy and work toward a better future."



Pritzker

ABORTION

Study: Abortion numbers rose slightly since Dobbs ruling

By GEOFF MULVIHILL AND KIMBERLEE KRUESI

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Abortion was slightly more common across the U.S. in the first three months of this year than it was before the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade and cleared the way for states to implement bans, a report released Wednesday found.

A major reason for the increase is that some Democrat-controlled states enacted laws to protect doctors who use telemedicine to see patients in places that have abortion bans, according to the quarterly #WeCount report for the Society of Family Planning, which supports abortion access.

The data comes ahead of November elections in which abortion-rights supporters hope the issue will drive voters to the polls. In some places, voters will have a chance to enshrine or reject state-level abortion protections.

Fallout from the Supreme Court's June 2022 ruling in Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization has remade the way abortion works across the country. The #WeCount data, which has been collected in a monthly survey since April 2022, shows how those providing and seeking abortion have adapted to changing laws.

The survey found that the number of abortions fell to nearly zero in states that ban abortion in all stages of pregnancy

and declined by about half in places that ban it after six weeks of pregnancy, before many women know they are pregnant. Fourteen states are enforcing bans on abortion at all stages of pregnancy, with some exceptions, and four others bar it after about six weeks of pregnancy.

Numbers went up in places where abortion remains legal until further into pregnancy — and especially in states such as Illinois, Kansas and New Mexico, which border states with bans.

Abortion pills and telemedicine play a key role. In March, doctors in states with laws to protect medical providers used telemedicine to prescribe abortion pills to nearly 10,000 patients in states with bans or restrictions on abortion by

telehealth — accounting for about 1 in 10 abortions in the U.S.

Laws to protect medical providers who use telemedicine to prescribe abortion pills started taking effect in some Democrat-led states last year.

"It eases the burden on clinics," said Ushma Upadhyay, a University of California, San Francisco School of Medicine professor who co-leads #WeCount. "So it creates more space for the people who are coming to clinics."

Abortion opponents say the fight over the abortion drug mifepristone isn't over after a narrow Supreme Court ruling that preserved access to it for now. But so far there have not been legal challenges to shield laws.

BUSINESS

Drugstores trying smaller spaces to cut costs, offer more services

By Tom Murphy
ASSOCIATED PRESS

America's drugstores are testing smaller locations and more ways to offer services as price-sensitive shoppers look elsewhere.

Customers may see Walgreens stores that are one-fourth the size of a regular one or CVS drugstores with entire primary clinics stuffed inside. If these experiments succeed, the new stores might improve access to care and create a more lasting connection with customers, analysts say.

"Everyone looks at health care and says, 'Oh, yeah, it's a market that's ripe for disruption,'" said Neil Saunders, managing director of the consulting and data analysis firm GlobalData. "But it isn't easy to disrupt."

Walgreens CEO Tim Wentworth said recently that his company could close a "significant portion" of underperforming stores in the next few years. CVS Health is going through a round of closings. Rite



Walgreens and CVS pharmacies are experimenting with smaller stores and offering more wellness services to cut costs and increase profits as customers rely on them less and turn to cheaper retailers such as Walmart or the convenience of Amazon.

Aid has filed for bankruptcy. Thousands of independent drugstores have closed in the past five years.

The closings can leave gaps: An Associated Press analysis published in June

found that urban neighborhoods that are majority Black and Hispanic have fewer pharmacies per capita than White majority neighborhoods.

There are still more than 30,000

drugstores in the U.S., but even Walgreens executives say the market is overbuilt.

The stores have struggled with increased competition from Amazon and cheaper options such as Walmart or Dollar Tree. They're also dealing with theft, growing costs and thinner prescription reimbursement.

Some are responding with new looks. Walgreens is testing a store in Chicago that has digital kiosks where customers place orders. A separate desk offers pickup of items ordered at the kiosks or online.

The company has also opened about 100 mini drugstores focused on health and wellness and featuring store-brand merchandise. Walgreens started testing these stores in 2019 and plans to add more this year.

Walgreens spokesman Jim Cohn said shopper preferences are shifting, and the company aims "to meet them where, when and how they want to shop."

Mr. Saunders said these stores are

less expensive to run and allow the company to serve areas without enough people to support a bigger store.

At one of these locations in Indianapolis, only four short aisles separate the front door and the pharmacy counter in the back. Snacks, vitamins, first aid supplies, and the usual mix of antacids and Advil fill its shelves.

But there are no magazines and only small selections of greeting cards and beauty products at the store, which is closed on Sunday and sits about half a mile from a vacant Walgreens.

Indianapolis resident Leonard King, 67, has visited several times. He says his prescriptions are ready on time, and the store seems to have decent supplies.

"Being a diabetic, sometimes medicines are hard to get," he said.

But Mr. King also said he misses being able to shop for toiletries and other items that can be found in bigger stores.

The selection is also smaller at some CVS stores that include Oak Street Health primary care clinics.

ILLINOIS

Judge lets lawsuit proceed over tainted baby formula

The parents of a Kentucky baby who died last fall after drinking bacteria-tainted infant formula are the latest to sue Abbott Nutrition, the manufacturer at the heart of a 2022 crisis that left millions of Americans scrambling to feed their children.

Willow Jade Dellaquila, of Carrollton, Kentucky, was 13 days old when she died on Nov. 5, 2023. She was infected with *cronobacter sakazakii*, a dangerous germ traced to a can of Similac Total Comfort powdered formula used in her bottles, records show.

"They told me she had a stroke on her right side of the brain," said Cheyenne Ping, Willow's 25-year-old mother.

Ms. Ping and the baby's 26-year-old father, Christian Dellaquila, can move forward with a lawsuit against Abbott, an Illinois judge ruled Wednesday.

Willow consumed formula made at the Sturgis plant and sold at a local Walmart store more than a year after Abbott was placed under court-mandated oversight by the FDA.

— Associated Press

TEXAS

Inmate who claimed disability executed for 1997 murder

HUNTSVILLE | A Texas man who claimed an intellectual disability in a late attempt at a reprieve was executed Wednesday evening for the killing of a woman who was jogging near her Houston home more than 27 years ago.

Arthur Lee Burton, 54, received a lethal injection at the state penitentiary in Huntsville and was pronounced dead at 6:47 p.m. local time. He was condemned for the July 1997 killing and attempted rape of Nancy Adleman, a 48-year-old mother of three.

Burton appeared nervous as he lay strapped to the death chamber gurney and a spiritual adviser prayed briefly over him, the inmate's right leg twitching under a white sheet that covered him from his chest to his feet.

"I want to say thank you to all the people who support me and pray for me," Burton said when asked by the warden if he had a final statement.

Hours before the scheduled execution time, the Supreme Court declined a defense request to intervene after lower courts had previously rejected

BRIEFLY

THE NATION

Burton's request for a stay.

— Associated Press

MISSOURI

Rap star Nelly arrested on charges of drug possession

Rapper Nelly was arrested early Wednesday for suspected illegal drug possession at a St. Louis-area casino after Missouri Highway Patrol officers found what the patrol said were four ecstasy pills on him.

The 49-year-old rapper and actor was held by police in Maryland Heights, the Missouri suburb that is home to the Hollywood Casino and Hotel, where Nelly was found with the pills, an online Highway Patrol arrest report said.

He also had an outstanding warrant on a previous charge of not having proof of insurance for a vehicle. His arrest occurred at 4:45 a.m., according to the patrol's report.

While Nelly's representatives did not immediately comment. A call to Maryland Heights police seeking comment was not immediately returned.

Nelly, who was born Cornell Haynes II, grew up in the St. Louis area.

— Associated Press

FLORIDA

NASA says astronauts may have to stay at station for 8 months

CAPE CANAVERAL | What should have been a quick trip to the International Space Station may turn into an eight-month stay for two astronauts if they have to switch from Boeing to SpaceX for a ride home.

There's lingering uncertainty over the safety of Boeing's new Starliner capsule, NASA officials said Wednesday, and the agency is split on the risk.

As a result, chances are increasing that test pilots Butch Wilmore and Suni Williams may have to watch from the space station as their Starliner is cut loose to return to Earth empty.

If that happens, NASA would leave behind two of four astronauts for the next SpaceX taxi flight in late September, with the vacant seats set aside for

Mr. Wilmore and Ms. Williams on the return trip next February. The pair expected to be gone just a week or two when they launched June 5 as Starliner's first crew.

— Associated Press

ALABAMA

Contractor-instructor killed in crash of Apache helicopter

FORT NOVOSEL | A helicopter crash at a military base in Alabama on Wednesday afternoon killed one person and injured another.

An AH-64 Apache helicopter crashed during routine flight training on Fort Novosel Army base, about 94 miles south of Montgomery, said Dale County Coroner John Cawley.

The crash killed a flight instructor who was operating the helicopter. There was only one other passenger, a student, who was being treated for minor injuries at a hospital.

Mr. Cawley identified the dead instructor pilot as Daniel Munger, 46, a contractor who'd retired from the Army.

Military officials did not immediately provide information on the crash.

— Associated Press

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World

MIDDLE EAST

No sign of rebound in Red Sea traffic after strikes

By Mike Glenn
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Missile and drone attacks from Yemen's Iran-allied Houthi rebels have cut commercial maritime shipping in half in the Gulf of Aden and the Red Sea, and the top U.S. naval commander in the region says he sees little appetite among shippers to return in significant numbers to the vital waterway despite a major protection operation by U.S. and allied forces.

Adm. George Wikoff, commander of the Middle East-based U.S. 5th Fleet, meets regularly with industry leaders about the status of Operation Prosperity Guardian, the U.S.-led coalition formed in December 2023 in response to the Houthi attacks on commercial ships passing near the Bab al-Mandab Strait chokepoint between Yemen and Djibouti.

The attacks caused a 50% drop in ship traffic through the Red Sea, prompting shipping companies to begin routing vessels around Africa, while adding some 11,000 nautical miles and \$1 million in fuel costs. The Houthi attacks have continued despite multiple strikes against positions on the Yemeni coastline by both the U.S. and Israel in recent months.

"We used to see about 2,000 ships go through the [Bab al-Mandab] a month. Now, we see roughly 1,000 ships go through," Adm. Wikoff said Wednesday in a discussion hosted by the Center for Strategic and International Studies think tank in Washington.

U.S. admiral sees little appetite among shippers to return amid Houthi attacks

Shipping companies have absorbed the costs and taken into account the extra transit time necessary to go around the Cape of Good Hope at the southern tip of Africa. From a financial perspective, they said increased insurance rates and the potential for total ship loss through the Red Sea and the Suez Canal route offset any added expenses from the longer route.

"That really reflects the maritime industry's ability to recalibrate and re-initiate their routes," Adm. Wikoff said.

On the same day the admiral was speaking, a Houthi military spokesman said Wednesday that the group's forces used ballistic missiles and drones while targeting a cargo vessel in the Red Sea identified as the Contship Ono along with two U.S. Navy destroyers operating in the Gulf of Aden.

Officials at U.S. Central Command said this week that they had intercepted and destroyed a drone and several missiles fired from Houthi-controlled parts of Yemen.

"This reckless and dangerous behavior by Iranian-backed Houthis continues to threaten regional stability and security," Centcom said in a statement.

Adm. Wikoff acknowledged that global shippers won't return in force until the environment in the region is stable.

The U.S. and its coalition partners in Operation Prosperity Guardian, along with a similar mission from the European Union, are trying to re-establish maritime security in a vast region that stretches the same distance as Boston from Miami, Adm. Wikoff said. He said the military mission can only do so much with the entire region on edge over the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza, now in its 10th month.

"What we need to have is a diplomatic solution so ... we don't have to worry about trying to defend ships that are just innocently transiting the area," he said. "What we really rely on are rational actors in the region who act rationally."

The admiral said the U.S.-led mission has dealt the Houthi a blow, but admitted the attacks continue.

"We have certainly degraded their capabilities, but have we stopped them? No," he said. "It's the Houthis' choice. They can stop this any day they want."

Houthi leaders have launched 87 attacks against ships operating in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden since November 2023, resulting in the deaths of four civilian mariners, according to the latest figures from the Joint Maritime Information Center. The rebels insist their strategy is to target ships linked to Israel, the U.S., or Great Britain in support of the militant group Hamas in its

war against Israel. But the vast majority of ships that have been attacked have little to no connection to the ongoing war in the Gaza Strip, officials said.

Some commentators have said the U.S. policy of targeting Houthi rocket and drone bases amounts to little more than a game of "Whac-a-Mole," with new missile batteries popping up to replace the ones Western missiles destroy. Adm. Wikoff acknowledged that applying "classic deterrence policy" in that particular scenario is challenging.

"It's very difficult to find a centralized center of gravity and use that as a potential point of deterrence," he said. "What we're currently doing is trying to preserve some decision space for our leadership."

The sailors taking part in Operation Prosperity Guardian are part of the most intense naval combat environment since World War II, Adm. Wikoff said.

"Our sailors have been asked to do an extremely difficult job and they're doing it better than we could have possibly imagined," he said. "The crews understand what they're doing and they understand why they're doing it."

As coalition commander, Adm. Wikoff said he would like additional ships and more countries to participate in the mission. But he said he understands that is ultimately a decision for their governments. The mission of Operation Prosperity Guardian is simply to protect innocent civilian mariners trying to do their vital job in a troubled region of the world, he said.

BRIEFLY THE WORLD

PHILIPPINES

U.S., allies conduct maneuvers in tense South China Sea

MANILA | The United States, Australia, Canada and the Philippines held air and naval maneuvers Wednesday in what they said was a show of force to promote the rule of law in the disputed South China Sea, where China has increasingly asserted its territorial claims. In an apparent response, China said it conducted air and sea combat patrols on the same day.

Adm. Samuel Paparo, who heads the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, and top military and defense commanders from Australia, Canada and the Philippines said in a joint statement that they were staging the two-day exercises to uphold unhindered passage in the Indo-Pacific region.

China has long claimed much of the South China Sea, a key global trade and security route, and vowed to defend its territorial interests at all costs. Its claims overlap those of smaller coastal states, including the Philippines and Vietnam, hampering their access to traditional fishing areas and disrupting oil and gas exploration in their internationally recognized exclusive economic zones.

A Philippine navy spokesperson, Rear Adm. Roy Trinidad, said the exercises are not directed at any country but are "a collective expression of support for a rules-based international order." Beijing has sharply criticized past exercises as an infringement on its sovereignty.

— Associated Press

PANAMA

Arrests said to break up Chinese smuggling ring

PANAMA CITY | Border police in Panama said Wednesday that they have arrested 15 people who allegedly ran a smuggling ring to move Chinese migrants through the Darien Gap.

The dangerous, jungle-clad gap connects Colombia and Panama, and represents a major route for migrants to reach the U.S. border. In recent years, Chinese migrants have become the fourth-largest group by nationality to use the crossing. Most of those crossing are Venezuelans.

More than 500,000 migrants crossed the Darien Gap in a record-breaking 2023. So far this year, more than 212,000 migrants have crossed, though reports in July suggested the flow may have declined in recent weeks.

Panama's National Border Service said 11 vehicles, two dozen cellphones, a rifle and cash were seized in the raids.

Panama's new president has vowed to crack down on the massive migrant flows, and border police have erected about 3 miles of barbed wire to block some trails and funnel migrants to a single reception point.

— Associated Press

AUSTRIA

Taylor Swift concerts nixed amid terror attack warnings

VIENNA | Organizers of three Taylor Swift concerts in Vienna this week called them off on Wednesday after officials announced arrests over an apparent plot to launch an attack on an event in the Vienna area such as the concerts. The American singer-songwriter was scheduled to play at the Austrian capital's Ernst Happel Stadium on Thursday, Friday and Saturday as part of her globally popular Eras Tour.

Earlier Wednesday, authorities said they had arrested two suspected extremists, one of whom appeared to be planning an attack on an event in the Vienna area such as the upcoming concerts. The 19-year-old main suspect was arrested in Ternitz, south of Vienna, and the second person in the Austrian capital.

Franz Ruf, the public security director at Austria's interior ministry, said authorities were aware of "preparatory actions" for a possible attack "and also that there is a focus by the 19-year-old perpetrator on the Taylor Swift concerts in Vienna," the Austria Press Agency reported. Mr. Ruf said the 19-year-old had pledged an oath of allegiance to the Islamic State group.

The Austrian citizen is believed to have become radicalized on the internet. Mr. Ruf said that chemical substances were secured and were being evaluated.

— Associated Press

THAILAND

Opposition leader barred from politics

By Richard S. Ehrlich
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

BANGKOK | Thailand's Constitutional Court on Wednesday expelled from politics the country's most popular opposition politician, Pita Limjaroenrat, and 10 other leaders of his Move Forward Party (MFP) for repeatedly demanding the king's powerful legal protection against libel be weakened and "reformed."

Mr. Pita, whose upstart party finished first in parliamentary elections last year but was blocked from forming a government, is widely seen as a pro-U.S. force in Thai politics and a voice for younger voters who sought to challenge a long period of military-dominated government.

The move drew an unusually sharp rebuke from the Biden administration, which has cultivated Bangkok in a rivalry with China for friends, influence and markets in Southeast Asia, but expressed "deep concern" over the ruling.

"This decision disenfranchises the more than 14 million Thais who voted for the Move Forward Party in the May 2023 election and raises questions about their representation within Thailand's electoral system," State Department spokesman Matt Miller said in a statement after the expulsion was announced. "The Constitutional Court's decision also jeopardizes Thailand's democratic progress and runs counter to the aspirations of the Thai people for a strong, democratic future."

Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Ben Cardin, Maryland Democrat, also criticized the decision, saying

U.S. rebukes move; Pita sparked clash over laws protecting the monarchy

it will force lawmakers to "evaluate how recent developments in Thailand will impact the U.S.-Thailand bilateral partnership."

The nine judges of Thailand's Constitutional Court, wrapped in black cloaks with bright red bibs, issued the ruling in front of portraits on the courtroom's wall portraying King Vajiralongkorn and Queen Suthida. Mr. Pita, wearing a blue suit with a white medical facemask covering his mouth, sat rigidly in the courtroom alongside other MFP politicians, staring at the judges.

Thailand enforces the toughest lese majeste law in the world, which makes it illegal to "defame, insult, or threaten members of the royal family."

Several high-profile anti-monarchy protest leaders and dozens of others are currently in prison after being convicted for violating the law during the past two decades.

In a loud campaign, Mr. Pita and his MFP had demanded that the punishments meted out under the law — which include multiple 15-year prison sentences for each infraction — be lessened. But that activism worried many of the party's own supporters who cautioned that Mr. Pita's priorities should instead have focused on the troubled economy and other issues instead of repeatedly challenging the monarchy's legal protection.

Mr. Pita's supporters claim Thailand's

hierarchy of military, royalists, old-money conservatives and some big business interests are blocking him because he threatens their financial and political control.

The political downfall for Mr. Pita, a 42-year-old progressive with a business background and an MBA from MIT, is a dramatic reversal from his impressive peak.

After coming in first in the 2023 multiparty elections, which were widely seen as a referendum on a decade of military rule, he boldly but prematurely presented himself as the next prime minister, vowing to slash the military's political and commercial powers and end the draft. He also talked of limiting the influence of Thailand's large, family-run monopolistic corporations and allowing more diversification for smaller competitors.

But his path to power was blocked by the military-dominated Senate, which rejected his efforts to form a coalition government, and name a prime minister.

The Election Commission filed a petition against the party in January, alleging that its campaign to amend the lese majeste laws amounted to an attempt to overthrow the nation's constitutional monarchy. Move Forward has insisted that it wants to keep the monarchy above politics and not allow it to be exploited as a political tool.



Former Move Forward Party leader Pita Limjaroenrat waves to his supporters in Bangkok, on Wednesday. A court expelled him from politics.

The court said the party's dissolution will allow the MFP's more than 140 other elected lawmakers to keep their parliamentary seats if they join other parties or form a new one.

Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin, head of the Pheu Thai Party (PTP) which scored second place in last year's election, has said he opposes any changes to the laws protecting the monarchy.

"Pheu Thai has made it clear it will not amend or scrap the law," Mr. Srettha said last summer, calling the campaign a distraction from the "bread-and-butter issues affecting people's daily lives."

Mr. Pita told reporters after the decision that party members will carry on "in a new vehicle" to be introduced Friday, although he will not be a part of it, The Associated Press reported.

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

UKRAINE

Putin blasts Ukrainian military's 'large-scale provocation'

By Samya Kullab
ASSOCIATED PRESS

KYIV, UKRAINE | Russian President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday described a Ukrainian incursion into the country's southwestern Kursk region as a "large-scale provocation" as his officials asserted that they were fighting off cross-border raids for a second day. Ukrainian officials remained silent about the scope of the operation.

With much of the world's attention focused on crises in the Middle East and elsewhere, the operation could be a sign Ukraine is taking the fight to the Russians after 2½ years of mostly playing defense.

Mr. Putin met with his top defense and security officials to discuss what he called the "indiscriminate shelling of civilian buildings, residential houses, ambulances with different types of weapons." He instructed the Cabinet to coordinate assistance to the Kursk



Russian officials said Wednesday they were fighting off Ukrainian cross-border raids in a southwestern border province for a second day, as Kyiv officials remained quiet about the scope of the operation. Ukraine is taking the fight to the Russians.

region. The fighting is about 320 miles from Moscow.

Army chief of staff Valery Gerasimov

told Mr. Putin at the meeting via video link that about 100 Ukrainian soldiers had been killed in the battle and more

than 200 wounded, Russian news agencies reported.

The Ukrainian shelling, meanwhile, killed at least two people — a paramedic and an ambulance driver — and injured 24, Russian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Maria Zakharova said in a statement.

It was not possible to independently verify the Russian claims. Disinformation and propaganda have played a central role in the war, now in its third year. John Kirby, the White House's national security spokesman, declined to comment on the operation and said the Biden administration has reached out to the Ukrainians to better understand what happened.

The head of the region urged residents to donate blood due to the intense fighting. "In the last 24 hours, our region has been heroically resisting attacks" by Ukrainian fighters, acting Gov. Alexei Smirnov said on Telegram, adding that all emergency services were on high alert.



U.S. REJECTS CHINA'S 'NO FIRST USE' NUCLEAR WEAPONS PLAN

A Chinese proposal submitted to the United Nations last month calling on all nations to adopt Beijing's questionable "no first use" nuclear weapons policy is a nonstarter for the United States.

A State Department official told Inside the Ring that the no-first-use policy would be unacceptable given China's massive nuclear weapons buildup and its refusal to join U.S. arms talks.

"The PRC's rapid and opaque buildup of a more flexible nuclear arsenal calls into question the objectives behind its no-first-use proposal," the official said, speaking on background and using the abbreviation for People's Republic of China. "[China's] refusal to engage in meaningful bilateral or multilateral discussions on arms control and risk reduction, including on questions about the PRC's stated no-first-use policy, reinforces these concerns."

The proposal was introduced in a U.N. preparatory meeting in Geneva from July 22 to Aug. 2 in advance of a major 2026 review conference on the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

In a working paper by the Chinese government, President Xi Jinping describes nuclear arms as a "sword of Damocles" threatening humanity. All nuclear weapons should be "completely banned" in pursuit of a nuclear-free world, he said.

China asserts in the paper that declaring not to be the first to use nuclear arms in a conflict is a way to implement Article VI of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. That article calls on all

signatories to "negotiate in good faith" for nuclear disarmament, something China has so far refused to do.

The State Department official said American diplomats in Geneva posed questions to Chinese officials about entering arms talks but received no response.

China's proposal, "which followed its suspension of bilateral consultations on arms control and risk reduction, appears likely to be an attempt to deflect responsibility for its unwillingness to engage in substantive discussions," the official said.

The Chinese proposal calls on the five leading nuclear weapons states — the United States, Russia, China, Britain and France — to sign a treaty on no-first-use of nuclear weapons. No-first-use is what arms control officials call a declaratory policy intended to signal nuclear deterrence goals.

Current U.S. declaratory policy, dating back to 2009, uses calculated ambiguity on how nuclear arms would be used in deterring an array of threats, both to the United States and allies in Europe and Asia covered by U.S. "extended" deterrence.

Successive presidential administrations have rejected both no-first-use and another policy once favored by President Biden called "sole purpose," which holds that the only justified use of nuclear weapons is to deter a nuclear attack on the U.S. and its allies.

Marshall Billingslea, presidential envoy for

arms control in the Trump administration, said no-first-use would be bad policy for the U.S., citing concerns it would increase — not decrease — the risk of war by offering an incentive for non-nuclear aggression.

"We have always maintained ambiguity about what might prompt a U.S. nuclear response," he said in an email. "In fact, there are scenarios where we might be the first to use these weapons, and Communist China needs to understand that."

The Pentagon's most recent annual report on the Chinese military also questioned the no-first-use policy amid a massive nuclear forces buildup of missiles, bombers and submarines by Beijing.

China's nuclear strategy, contrary to no-first-use, likely includes plans for nuclear strikes in response to non-nuclear attacks that threaten nuclear forces or command and control systems, or after an attack that equals the strategic effects of a nuclear strike, the report said.

China would also resort to nuclear weapons if a conventional military defeat in Taiwan gravely threatened the Chinese Communist Party's regime survival, the report said.

China's rapid buildup of nuclear forces in the more than a decade since Mr. Xi came to power has been described an unprecedented "break out." The Pentagon estimates China's warhead stockpile, once limited to around 250 warheads, will reach 1,500 by 2035 deployed on missiles, submarines and bombers.

U.S. DENIES PROLIFERATION

Beijing has turned to the United Nations in a bid to scuttle a centerpiece of the Biden administration's effort to bolster regional security in Asia against growing Chinese military threats.

At a preparatory meeting in Geneva related to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, Chinese officials submitted a working paper calling the U.S.-Australian-British program known as AUKUS to build nuclear-powered submarines for the Australian navy "a serious nuclear proliferation risk."

The State Department denied the claim.

"The AUKUS partnership on naval nuclear propulsion is consistent with the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)," a State Department official told Inside the Ring, noting the United States remains fully committed to the treaty and continues to comply with all its obligations.

AUKUS is a security partnership focused on sustaining peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific, the official said.

"Through AUKUS, we will support Australia's acquisition of conventionally armed, nuclear-powered submarines — a proven and safe technology," the official said in a statement. "This partnership is possible because of Australia's longstanding and demonstrated commitment to nuclear nonproliferation."

Australia has stated it will not seek nuclear weapons and remains committed to its international nonproliferation obligations.

Efforts by China to limit U.S. nuclear policy and the submarine program with Australia at the U.N. meeting are an example of what American officials have said are efforts to weaken the United States within international organizations.

"The place that really the Chinese are taking it to us is in international organizations," Deputy Secretary of State Kurt Campbell told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee recently. "We have to be able to contest there."

Mr. Campbell was lamenting the

slow pace of Senate confirmations of nominees for ambassadorial posts in international organizations, embassies and consulates.

ASSASSINATION MYSTERY

As the Middle East braces for a possible war between Israel and Iran, mystery surrounds the spectacular Israeli intelligence operation to assassinate the political leader of Hamas.

The New York Times, quoting Iranian officials, reported last week that Ismail Haniyeh, the senior Hamas leader, was killed by an explosive device smuggled into the Tehran guesthouse months before it blew up in the room where he was staying.

Photos of the high-rise building where the assassination took place were released by Iran. They showed a shroud covering a portion of the building where the explosion took place.

Iran's government said the killing was the result of an unspecified "severe explosion" outside the

guesthouse where Haniyeh was staying. The publication Pasdaran reported the Hamas leader was blown up by "a short-range projectile carrying about 7 kilograms of explosive materials and launched from outside the guest's residence."

Other reports said the attack was the result of an air-launched missile strike from an Israeli F-35.

Another account published Monday by The Jewish Chronicle, a British newspaper, reported Haniyeh was killed by a bomb placed under his bed by two Iranians recruited by Mossad, Israel's foreign intelligence service. The agents worked within the Ansar al-Mahdi security unit of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, the unit in charge of securing the building and its guests.

That report stated that the two guards behind the bombing were seen on video the day of the assassination entering the bedroom.

None of the four versions of the operation have been confirmed.

Intelligence analysts, however, say those who conduct such high-risk operations likely put out deceptive or misleading cover stories as part of the operation to protect the sources and methods that could be used again in the future.

Former National Security Agency counterintelligence official John Schindler said the Israeli hit on Haniyeh was a "spectacular" operation.

Mossad has conducted assassinations in the past in Iran, notably using hit men on motorcycles to kill several Iranian nuclear scientists. But none of those hits were on the level of the senior Hamas leader.

"What stands out is that Israel possesses not just effective long-range strike capabilities across the Middle East, but detailed real-time intelligence too," Mr. Schindler wrote on his "Top Secret Umbra" blog. "It required a great deal of actionable and timely intelligence to know exactly where Haniyeh was, and when. Attacks by

the [Israeli military] in Gaza or Lebanon are one thing, while a strike on an IRGC compound in Tehran is entirely another in both operational and intelligence terms."

Mr. Schindler believes the accounts fed to Western journalists on the assassination will induce record-breaking levels of security paranoia within Iran over Israeli spy penetrations.

"If we're lucky, the Iranians and their terrorist pets will go overboard with their aggressive mole hunt," he said.

The former counterspy said that a foreign counterintelligence operation fueled suspicions of spy penetration among terrorists in the Abu Nidal Organization.

The operation in the 1980s induced terror leader Abu Nidal to kill 600 of his confederates in a search for internal traitors. "Amateurs kill terrorists; professionals induce the terrorists to kill each other," Mr. Schindler said.

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FBI: Woman brought cache of weapons into Capitol during riot

By MICHAEL KUNZELMAN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

A California woman is charged with taking a cache of weapons, including a sword, a steel whip and a knife into the U.S. Capitol during the Jan. 6, 2021, attack by a mob of Donald Trump supporters, according to court records unsealed Wednesday.

Kennedy Lindsey had a short sword, a steel tactical whip, a collapsible baton, pepper spray, a butterfly knife and a flashlight taser in her possession when a U.S. Secret Service officer searched her backpack, according to an

Secret Service found sword, steel whip, knife in backpack

FBI affidavit.

Ms. Lindsey was arrested in Los Angeles last month on charges including disorderly conduct and possession of a dangerous weapon in a Capitol building.

More than 1,400 people have been charged with Capitol riot-related federal crimes. Rioters were armed with an array of weapons on Jan. 6, including firearms, knives and stun guns. Many others used items like flagpoles and broken pieces of office furniture as makeshift

weapons during the siege.

Ms. Lindsey was charged with a woman who flew with her from California to the District. She bought plane tickets for both of them after then-President Trump announced that there would be a “wild” protest there on Jan. 6. Ms. Lindsey posted on social media that she was going because “boss man called for us to be there.”

After attending Mr. Trump’s “Stop the Steal” rally near the White House, the two women rode to the Capitol on

the back of a golf cart.

“Everyone is storming the building, folks,” Ms. Lindsey said on a self-recorded video, according to the affidavit. “We must do this as patriots. It says so in the Constitution.”

Ms. Lindsey, who wore a red Make America Great Again hat and a tactical vest, entered the Capitol through a broken window, the FBI said. The Secret Service officer who approached Ms. Lindsey had seen the sword strapped to her leg, according to the affidavit.

Ms. Lindsey later told the FBI that she had retrieved the backpack from her hotel room after attending Mr. Trump’s speech. She described her confiscated weapons as “tools” and acknowledged that they were in her backpack when she entered the Capitol, the affidavit says.

Ms. Lindsey was released from custody after her July 28 arrest.

Ms. Lindsey didn’t immediately respond to a text message seeking comment. An attorney who represented Ms. Lindsey at her initial court appearance didn’t immediately respond to an email seeking comment.

MARYLAND

Surprise order puts Sept. 11 hearings in upheaval

Defense secretary’s decision to throw out plea deal raises legal challenges

By ELLEN KNICKMEYER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

FORT MEADE, MD. | Military-run hearings for accused Sept. 11 mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and two co-defendants at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, were in upheaval Wednesday following Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin’s decision to throw out a plea agreement.

Defense attorneys contend the plea deal still stands and suspended participation in the pre-trial hearings while legal challenges to Mr. Austin’s action play out.

Prosecutors also raised the prospect that the pre-trial hearings might have to be frozen as lawyers look for explanations in Mr. Austin’s order and work through the issues raised by it.

The judge overseeing the case, Air Force Col. Matthew McCall, acknowledged concerns over outside pressure on the case.

The plea agreement, which would have spared the defendants the risk of the death penalty, and Mr. Austin’s subsequent order, issued late Friday, have generated strong feelings, including among the families of Sept. 11 victims. The Biden administration came under heavy Republican criticism over the plea deal.

“If more political pressure is put on the parties to make a decision one way or the other,” that could build the case for illegal interference in the case, “but ... it’s not going to affect me,” Col. McCall said during Wednesday’s hearing.

The events of the past week are the latest

significant disruption of the U.S. military prosecution of defendants accused in the 2001 killings of nearly 3,000 people, in an al Qaeda plot that saw hijackers commandeer four passenger airliners and fly them into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, with the fourth coming down in a field in Pennsylvania.

Set up as former President George W. Bush and his Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld pursued what they called the U.S. war on terror, the military commission trying the 9/11 defendants has struggled with some of the unusual restrictions and legal challenges of the case.

That includes the torture of the defendants while in CIA custody in their first years after being captured, leaving the commission still hammering out legal questions over the effect of the torture on evidence.

The new developments began unfolding last week after the Pentagon-approved chief authority over the Guantanamo Bay military commission, Susan Escallier, approved the plea agreement between the military-appointed prosecutors and defense attorneys, which had been two years in the making.

Mr. Austin said in Friday’s order that he was overriding Ms. Escallier’s approval and taking direct control of such decisions in the 9/11 case going forward. He cited the significance of the case.

Defense lawyers and some legal analysts are challenging whether the laws governing the Guantanamo proceedings allow for that overruling.

Some of the attorneys and rights groups charge that the Republican criticism of the plea deal, and criticism from some of the families of the victims, appear to have influenced Mr. Austin’s action. Mr. Austin told reporters on Tuesday that the gravity of the American losses in the al Qaeda attack and in the years of U.S. military intervention that followed convinced him that the cases had to go to trial.

Defense attorneys told Col. McCall on Wednesday they considered the plea bargain still in effect. Col. McCall agreed to excuse them from participating in the pre-trial hearings while expected challenges to Mr. Austin’s actions play out.

Gary Sowards, the lead attorney for Mohammed, the accused mastermind of the 9/11 attacks, warned the court on Wednesday that that process alone was likely to take up to two year, adding to the length of a troubled case already well into its second decade.

“To intervene in this most unusual way ensures total chaos from this point forward,” Mr. Sowards told McCall, referring to Mr. Austin’s action.

Walter Ruiz, an attorney for 9/11 defendant Mustafa al Hawsawi, called Mr. Austin’s order “an unprecedented act by a government official to pull back a valid agreement” and said it raises issues involving “unlawful interference at the highest levels of government.”

Mr. Ruiz said the defense chief’s move also raised questions “whether we can ethically continue to engage” in the Pentagon-run commission in the face of an action “that goes right at the heart of the integrity of the system itself.”

Under the plea agreement, Mohammed, Hawsawi, and fellow defendant Walid bin Attash would have entered guilty pleas in exchange for the government not seeking the death penalty against them. Defense attorneys stressed Wednesday the agreement would have committed the accused to answer any lingering questions about the attack from family members of victims and others.

After Wednesday’s tumultuous start, the hearing proceeded with the questioning of an FBI witness, with the active defense participation of only one defendant who had not taken the plea agreement, Aamar al Baluchi.



Austin

MARYLAND

Heatstroke death spurs workplace safety calls

Baltimore worker died collecting trash

By LEA SKENE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BALTIMORE | Elected officials and union leaders in Baltimore are calling for safer and more humane working conditions for the city’s public works employees after a man collapsed and died from heatstroke last week while collecting trash in hot summer weather.

Critics say the recent death of Ronald Silver II, 36, is a sad result of longstanding problems within the agency, including an abusive culture perpetuated by supervisors and a lack of concern for basic health and safety measures.

“These men and women are doing the jobs that none of us wishes to do. They’re picking up trash,” Baltimore City Council member Antonio Glover, a former public works employee, said Tuesday morning in a news conference outside City Hall. “And I’m here today to say that we can no longer treat our men and women like the very same thing they pick up — trash.”

City officials had previously said that Mr. Silver died late Friday afternoon after experiencing “a medical situation that required immediate assistance while he and his fellow crew members were riding in their truck.” Temperatures in the Baltimore area climbed to about 100 degrees Fahrenheit on Friday, according to the National Weather Service.

On Monday, the Maryland Office of the Chief Medical Examiner attributed his death to hyperthermia, a condition that results from a person’s body overheating. His death was ruled accidental.

Baltimore Mayor Brandon Scott and acting Department of Public Works Director Khalil Zaied said in a statement that their agencies were “working with the crew and medical professionals who tended to Mr. Silver to understand the details of what occurred.”

Local media outlets reported that Mr. Silver rang the doorbell of a northeast Baltimore resident late Friday afternoon asking for help. The person who answered the door called 911 on his behalf.

“He stopped breathing on my stoop,” Gabby Avendano told The Baltimore Sun. She said Mr. Silver appeared disoriented and clinging to life by the time he reached her doorstep. He asked her to pour water on him.

“Why no one, his co-workers, never called 911 if he was behaving like that just completely boggles my mind,” she told the newspaper.

Department of Public Works spokesperson Mary Stewart declined to answer questions about the events leading up to Mr. Silver’s death, including whether supervisors were notified about his condition earlier in the shift.

“Ronald Silver died serving the citizens of Baltimore,” council member Zeke Cohen said in the news conference. “He deserves to be remembered with reverence. And while we honor him, we must also be honest. He should still be alive today.”

Mr. Silver’s death has prompted urgent questions about the health and safety of sanitation workers in hot weather, especially as record heat waves are becoming increasingly common.

Baltimore’s public works agency has come under recent scrutiny for precisely that reason.

MARYLAND

Moore joins Elizabeth Dole to help veterans’ caregivers

By BRIAN WITTE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

ANNAPOLIS | Maryland Gov. Wes Moore joined former U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Dole on Tuesday to announce that Maryland will work with her foundation to support military and veteran caregivers.

Mr. Moore, who served as a paratrooper and captain in the Army in Afghanistan, said joining the Elizabeth Dole Foundation Hidden Heroes campaign will help raise awareness about resources available for families of veterans and to expedite those resources to them.

“We want our Hidden Heroes to know that Maryland sees you,” said Mr. Moore, a Democrat. “We are committed to providing the resources you need to deliver the care our service members and veterans deserve.”

Ms. Dole, who served as a Republican senator representing North Carolina from 2003 to 2009, established the foundation in 2012 to help the spouses, parents, family members, and friends who care for the nation’s wounded, ill or injured veterans. She is the widow of Sen. Bob Dole, a Kansas Republican and longtime leader in Congress and World War II veteran who died in 2021.

She joined Mr. Moore at a news conference to hold a proclamation announcing Maryland’s participation in her foundation’s Hidden Heroes campaign.

Steve Schwab, the CEO of the campaign, said Hidden Heroes works with community leaders around the nation to address challenges that people who help veterans face.

Mr. Schwab thanked Mr. Moore for efforts he has taken in office to help veterans and their families, and he said he hoped the step taken by Maryland will become a model that other governors



Democratic Maryland Gov. Wes Moore and Republican former Sen. Elizabeth Dole of North Carolina have announced that Maryland is joining the Elizabeth Dole Foundation Hidden Heroes campaign to support military and veteran caregivers.

will follow.

“It takes a coalition approach to do this work,” he said.

Mr. Moore’s wife, Dawn Moore, said initiatives to help veterans and their families was personal to her, having been a military spouse.

“It is our responsibility as a state to support the whole family and that’s why

Maryland is leaning in,” Ms. Moore said.

The Hidden Heroes campaign was launched in 2016 by Ms. Dole and chaired by actor Tom Hanks. It seeks solutions for the challenges and long-term needs caregivers face, and connects them to one another.

The campaign works with individuals, businesses, communities, and civic

faith and government leaders. It represents a network of more than 200 communities nationwide committed to increasing awareness and support.

By joining the campaign, Maryland aims to provide support for more than 150,000 military and veteran caregivers across the state, the governor’s office said.

Rules for thee, but not for Biden-Harris administration

Illegal immigration and Brooklyn's Floyd Bennett Field

By Rep. Bruce Westerman and Rep. Nicole Malliotakis

Since President Biden took office, every American community has become a border community. More than 1.5 million migrants have crossed our southern border illegally in the past six months, straining available resources beyond the breaking point and driving up cartel crime from coast to coast. Now, the Biden-Harris administration's inaction is jeopardizing our country's crown jewels, our national park sites, and putting Americans' safety at risk.

Nearly a year ago, the National Park Service and the state of New York rushed a shady backdoor lease to "temporarily" house migrants at Floyd Bennett Field in Brooklyn. Since then, community members have lost recreational space, seen panhandling at all hours of day and night, and are being terrorized by migrants' attempts to extort drivers by jumping in front of their moving cars.

The community also lives with widespread reports of criminality in the area, including domestic violence, shoplifting and prostitution. In addition, migrants at Floyd Bennett Field are subjected to hazardous living conditions and a lack of security, a result of park police resources being spread thin.

How did we get here? It started when the Biden-Harris administration initiated the lease to help mitigate their inability to stop the flow of migrants over the southern border. As hotels and other landmarks across New York City were repurposed and filled with migrants, officials looked for a location where migrants could be processed and housed out of the public eye and away from the news cameras. Settling on Floyd Bennett Field — a beloved park that historically saw more than 1 million visitors annually — federal and state officials ignored community concerns, hazardous conditions and federal laws to forge ahead.

By evading laws like the National Environmental Protection Act, Democrats embraced a "rules for thee, but not for me" attitude as they attempted to distract us from the dangerous influx of migrants and drugs into our country.



ILLUSTRATION BY LIMAS GARSYS

It's important to note that when Republicans work to update the act and fix the broken permitting system hampering the construction of roads, bridges and reliable energy

projects in our country, Democrats say we are "subverting bedrock environmental law" and "fundamentally threatening the environment." But when that same law stands in the way of a

Biden-Harris administration priority, it is no longer essential.

The rushed leasing process served as the catalyst for a terrible and avoidable situation last fall when flooding, a known hazard at Floyd Bennett Field, forced thousands of migrants to shelter at James Madison High School, forcing students to move to virtual learning and leaving parents fuming. For those keeping score, that means the Biden-Harris administration's inaction at the border has closed recreational space, including the only campground in New York City, created a new standard for administration officials looking to cover their tracks and ejected American students out of their school and classrooms.

The House Committee on Natural Resources is working to hold the Biden-Harris administration and New York officials accountable for the disaster they've created. Last fall, we visited the Roosevelt Hotel and Floyd Bennett Field so members could see the areas that the lease would directly affect. The committee brought local residents and elected officials to Washington to publicly share the dysfunction they've witnessed and sent countless oversight inquiries to the Biden-Harris administration investigating the origins of the lease and the decision-making surrounding it.

The Protecting Our Communities From Failure to Secure the Border Act of 2023, addressed many of the concerns brought before the committee and would prohibit federal funding from being used to house migrants on any federal lands. It passed the House of Representatives last Nov. 30 with bipartisan support and is awaiting Senate action. Unfortunately, Brooklyn's own Charles E. Schumer, the Senate majority leader, would rather ignore what's happening in his home borough than protect his constituents.

President Biden is either asleep at the wheel or hellbent on turning every community and green space across the nation into a border community plagued by rising migrant crime and quality-of-life issues. He must take responsibility for the disaster on our southern border and reverse his executive actions that created this mess.

Bruce Westerman, Arkansas Republican, chairs the House Committee on Natural Resources. Nicole Malliotakis, a Republican, represents New York's 11th Congressional District.

Walz isn't who he or mainstream media say he is

Democrats think they can win by going hard left

Shortly after word leaked that Vice President Kamala Harris had chosen Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz as her running mate, Rep. Nancy Pelosi popped up on MSNBC.

"Tim Walz I know very well. He served in the House," the former House speaker said. "To characterize him as left is so unreal. He's right down the middle. He's a heartland-of-America Democrat," she added.

But things have changed. While Mr. Walz might have fallen into the "moderate" ranks in the House — he supported gun rights, Israel and the Keystone XL pipeline when he represented a conservative district — he has moved far left as



governor of a state with just 5.7 million people — a state that hasn't voted for a Republican for president in 52 years.

As governor, Mr. Walz has won praise from liberals for his strong support of unions, for expanding abortion rights in the state constitution, for enacting universal free meals for students regardless of income and for making the state a refuge for children seeking transgender medical procedures.

Ms. Harris' pick prompted former President Donald Trump's advisers to fire a salvo that will no doubt become a mainstay for the remainder of the campaign.

"Walz is obsessed with spreading California's dangerously liberal agenda far and wide," said Karoline Leavitt, a Trump campaign spokeswoman. "If Walz won't tell voters the truth, we will: Just like Kamala Harris, Tim Walz is a dangerously liberal extremist, and the Harris-Walz California dream is every American's nightmare."

In a quick aside, the pick of Mr. Walz seemingly gets Ms. Harris nothing. She had toyed with picking two other governors, from crucial Pennsylvania and purple North Carolina, which, had she done so, could have locked down those



ILLUSTRATION BY HUNTER

states. She also considered Sen. Mark Kelly of Arizona, a former astronaut, which could have swung that swing state her way.

But Minnesotans are hard-core liberal. The last time they voted for a Republican presidential candidate was 1972 — which means they voted for President Jimmy Carter, Vice President Walter Mondale (a fellow Minnesotan), Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis, Vice President Al Gore, Sen. John Kerry of Massachusetts and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. All super liberal — and except for one guy, all losers.

So why pick him? Simple. The Democratic Party thinks it can win by going hard left. Democrats think their big-government vision — which wins them votes in most of America's biggest cities — is ready for prime time and will sell across what many of the party's elites call the "flyover" states.

While the push is now on to sell Mr. Walz's desirables — he's a former teacher and kids' sports coach who served in the National Guard — the attempt to whitewash his record as a liberal governor of a liberal state will be a hard sell across America.

Every day until Election Day, Mr. Trump will deluge voters about the Minnesota governor's response to the worst race riots to hit the U.S. since the 1960s. Mr. Walz delayed deploying the National Guard when riots engulfed the Twin Cities after George Floyd was killed and rejected offers of federal military assistance to combat Black Lives Matter demonstrators. He later acknowledged his initial response to the riots had been an "abject failure."

Don't forget that debacle led to the "defund the police" movement that hit a slew of Democratic-run cities, many of which have abandoned that silly notion.

Then there was the "Feeding Our Future" scandal. Federal prosecutors charged 70 people in Minnesota with defrauding federal food programs out of \$250 million on Mr. Walz's watch.

"The Office of the Legislative Auditor, a nonpartisan watchdog, delivered a scathing report in June that said Walz's Department of Education 'failed to act on warning signs,' did not effectively exercise its authority and was ill-prepared to respond," Fox News reported.

Conservative firebrand Charlie Kirk blasted the pick in an X post, noting that like the Biden-Harris administration, Mr. Walz is soft on the border. "On immigration, you famously said you wanted to provide a ladder so invaders can come over Trump's wall. You are a radical open border zealot," he wrote.

What's more, Minnesota has the most radical abortion laws in the country. In 2021, five babies were "born alive" in 2021 during failed abortions, and none was provided lifesaving care. Three other infants were "born alive" during abortions in 2019, Mr. Walz's first year as governor, and they were also left to die.

So try as they might, the mainstream media's effort to paint Mr. Walz as a heartland-of-America will be a hard sell. Unless, of course, that brand of Democrat just lets babies born alive die.

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



The Supreme Court's six freedom fighters

Protecting democracy amid Democrats' ire

By Rowan Scarborough

If Senate Majority Leader Charles E. Schumer and other Democrats really want to protect democracy, they will seek inspiration by casting their eyes from the Senate chamber to 1 First St. NE.

That's the address of the Supreme Court. Six conservative justices work there under constant assault from a Nicolas Maduro-like President Biden and Mr. Schumer, a New Yorker who is famous for threatening them with "you won't know what hit you."

But the 6-3 court toiled on, even when dangerous, stalking protesters surrounded their homes, and Attorney General Merrick Garland did little.

The six just issued the court's most pro-democratic decision in decades.

In overturning the 40-year Chevron precedent, the six took power from regulators and gave federal judges new sway to clarify fuzzy law language instead of letting bureaucrats do creative writing.

The full impact will be that the democratically elected Congress will play a more active role in writing precise legislative directives and updating laws, not through regulation but through actual roll-call votes.

This will restrict the ability of unelected bureaucrats to write

» see SCARBOROUGH | B4

COMMENT & ANALYSIS

Tim Walz, radical Democrat

Harris appeases far left with choice of running mate

Ad day after being formally installed as the Democratic presidential candidate on a Zoom call, Vice President Kamala Harris on Tuesday chose Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz as her running mate. She made the safest choice.

The other leading contender, Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro, had one glaring flaw in the eyes of the party of “saving democracy.” Mr. Shapiro is Jewish, and his selection would have inflamed the party’s growing pro-Hamas wing.

Going with a governor with a track record of condoning Islamic extremism helps quell such discontent. Mr. Walz quietly ensured that pro-Hamas demonstrators at the University of Minnesota faced no consequences for violating state laws or school policies, just as he allowed the far more destructive Black Lives Matter rioters to burn and loot Minneapolis before doing anything about it.

After the deaths of two residents, the destruction of 1,500 properties and \$500 million in damage, 612 charges were filed. Nearly all were dismissed a year later, with Ms. Harris helping to raise money for their defense.

Despite the high-profile incident, an NPR/PBS/Marist poll found 71% of voters have no idea who Mr. Walz is. That’s perfect, since modern Democratic campaigns avoid issues. The public wouldn’t like the policies their candidates implement once the election is over.

As Minnesota’s chief executive, Mr. Walz has been an unrepentant radical, despite the furious overnight effort of Democratic allies to redefine him as an ordinary guy. In the thick of the COVID-19 pandemic, even The New York Times’ science and global health correspondent was taken aback by what she saw.

“Gov. Tim Walz of Minnesota took the extraordinary step of banning people from different households from meeting indoors or outdoors, even though evidence has

consistently shown the outdoors to be relatively safe,” Apoorva Mandavilli wrote.

That’s not the end of the governor’s unscientific nonsense. He signed legislation last year requiring the placement of free tampon dispensing machines in the boys’ restrooms in grade schools. Left-wing state lawmakers at the time rejected an amendment that would have limited the program’s applicability to girls.

“Not all students who menstruate are female,” said state Rep. Sandy Feist, the bill’s author. “We need to make sure all students have access to these products.”

The vice presidential hopeful also issued an executive order and signed legislation turning Minnesota into a sanctuary state so children could be brought from anywhere in the country to undergo gender transition surgery against their parents’ will.

Minnesota is also a sanctuary state for foreigners who entered the country illegally. Mr. Walz signed legislation offering illegal aliens free college tuition to go with their free health care and driver’s licenses.

Thrilled by the new Democratic ticket, former Vice President Al Gore emerged from his 10,000-square-foot mansion on Tuesday to praise Mr. Walz as a man after his own green heart, writing on X, “He is a proven leader on climate and knows the issue inside and out.”

Last month, Mr. Walz signed legislation making it easier for companies to blacken once verdant fields with vast arrays of fragile solar panels and bird-slaying windmills. A true outdoorsman would be appalled at such schemes, which benefit only the crony capitalists and Democratic donors who profit from importing the Chinese-produced technology.

Appearing on the “White Dudes for Harris” Zoom call last week, Mr. Walz described himself in unmistakable terms.

“Don’t ever shy away from our progressive values,” he said. “One person’s socialism is another person’s neighborliness.”

He’s the perfect match for Kamala Harris.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Reject Harris-Walz utopia

Progressives run cities into the ground for sport, and now Democrats have a presidential ticket that will do the same to our country (“Harris introduces running mate Walz to nation as midwestern, middle-class warrior,” web, Aug. 6).

It’s not that they are bad people; it’s just that their ideas are often at odds with reality. To wit: Boys can be girls, men can menstruate and get pregnant, cities can function without police, we can print money and spend our way to prosperity.

It’s all just a warm-up to the idea

that progressives can serve up a utopia by redistributing other people’s stuff. And when the package they deliver doesn’t match the promises they’ve made, they look for a devil to blame. That will be us.

With Kamala Harris and Tim Walz, we have our first “woke,” Marxist ticket. In the coming months, we are certain to hear promises of equality, justice, and an end to want and need. All make for a great virtue signal, but the progressive policies always end in bifurcated societies with a privileged elite lording over a crushing poverty that engulfs everyone

else. Gone is the middle class.

Prosperity hucksters are pikers compared to the swill Ms. Harris and Mr. Walz will be selling in the coming months. The empty promises of a utopia will only succeed if voters are not grounded in reality and an understanding of history and human nature. Otherwise, Americans risk making the same tragic mistake that has led so many others to end up at our southern border.

THOMAS M. BEATTIE
Mount Vernon, Virginia

It’s all about power

The contempt and disdain that the radical leftist Democrats and their sequacious minions have for the electorate knows no bounds (“Unprecedented Biden-to-Harris campaign switcheroo is rife with thorny legal snags,” web, Aug. 5).

Within the span of just a few weeks, President Biden went from being the best thing since sliced

bread to not having the ability to slice his own bread. Vice President Kamala Harris, meanwhile, was considered someone who couldn’t use the word bread in a sentence.

Then, voila, she is suddenly an anointed seraph without having received a single vote. This is political legerdemain at its finest, America. As these elitist Democrats say they are

trying to save democracy, they add another leftist extremist, Tim Walz, to their clown show.

They do not care one iota about the American people, whether those people be Republican or Democrat. Power is all that they seek.

JAMES McCAFFREY
Yonkers, New York

Don’t be tricked again

The Democratic National Committee is trying desperately to rebrand Kamala Harris in an attempt to trick voters into forgetting the woman’s many failures.

The level of deception runs so deep that it includes donors, social media, pundits, influencers and entertainers. A quote from the French poet Charles Baudelaire comes to mind: “The greatest trick the devil pulled was convincing the world he didn’t exist.”

After three years of zero recognition for her “work,” Ms. Harris is now dumping huge volumes of propaganda on the public, claiming numerous supposed successes as vice president. Journalists are taught to remain independent and

objective in their reporting, but we have media outlets everywhere arrogantly expressing their support of Ms. Harris, and we have government leaders trying to convince voters to fall for the Democrats’ tricks. History is repeating itself.

The recent race-baiting of former President Donald Trump at the National Association of Black Journalists convention was designed to elicit a hostile response, and this, too, is a leftist trick. Using overtly sexual images such as ones of Megan Thee Stallion and her performance at a “Hotties for Harris” performance is evidence of the level to which the DNC and Ms. Harris are willing to stoop.

The campaign is also reportedly

paying “social media influencers” \$20,000 each to attend the upcoming Democratic National Convention. Talk about desperate.

I’m relieved that I never accepted the invitation to join the NABJ, as I would have been a direct target of the attempt to convince us Ms. Harris is suddenly qualified to be president. Unfortunately, for the next 90 days, we will be bombarded with high-volume tricks like this to deceive voters into going along with the crowd. This is exactly what Baudelaire was referring to, and in his time many of the gullible suffered.

GREG RALEIGH
Washington



Do the debate, Donald

Remind voters Kamala can't talk without a teleprompter

By Cal Thomas

There is no downside for former President Donald Trump to debate Vice President Kamala Harris next month on ABC News. Mr. Trump made the right decision to show up at the National Association of Black Journalists convention in Chicago last week (Ms. Harris didn’t appear, due to a scheduling conflict), though he squandered an opportunity to win over not just those in the audience but a wider spectrum of young Black voters when he questioned Ms. Harris’ race.

Ms. Harris says she will appear on ABC on Sept. 10, but Mr. Trump says his previous agreement was with President Biden and because Mr. Biden has withdrawn from the race, that deal is void. If Mr. Trump doesn’t show, he gives Ms. Harris 90 minutes of free airtime. Given her inability to speak clearly without a teleprompter, that might be his strategy. Americans deserve better.

This should be less about their personalities and more about the country and our future. It’s not about race, gender, felonies, or the moral failings of candidates or their spouses. It’s about America and who is best positioned to lead the country back to economic prosperity, military strength and global respectability, especially among our enemies.

As an experienced debater, let me offer Mr. Trump some advice (if he is up to taking advice; he usually isn’t).

Be positive. Use humor where indicated. Make Ms. Harris defend her and Mr. Biden’s dismal record. Note how she has changed her position on every important issue except abortion and climate change. How can Americans trust someone who has no firm convictions? OK, Mr. Trump is vulnerable on this, too, but at least he has offered explanations for why he flipped, especially on abortion. What are hers on fracking and guns, for example?

As you did in your debate with Mr. Biden, let Ms. Harris talk. Without a teleprompter, she is as lost as someone in a strange city without GPS. The more her verbal and intellectual lapses are exposed, the better for Mr. Trump.

Challenge her for concealing Mr. Biden’s mental state. Demand to know if she knew about it all along and covered it up, along with other Democrats.

Demand that ABC and the rest of the media expose the real Kamala Harris

instead of collaborating in her phony transformation. Recall last month, her polling numbers were terrible, and stories appeared of staff leaving because of her alleged ill treatment of them.

Wall Street Journal columnist Gerard Baker has asked the right question: “Can the Democrats and a collaborative media pull off their recasting of Vice President Kamala Harris from the verbally maladroit, politically inept, ruinous-policy-espousing electoral dud we have all seen over the past five years into the holy trinity of Joan of Arc, Harriet Tubman and Margaret Thatcher we have been presented within the past two weeks?”

Stick with the failed policies of the Biden-Harris administration and note

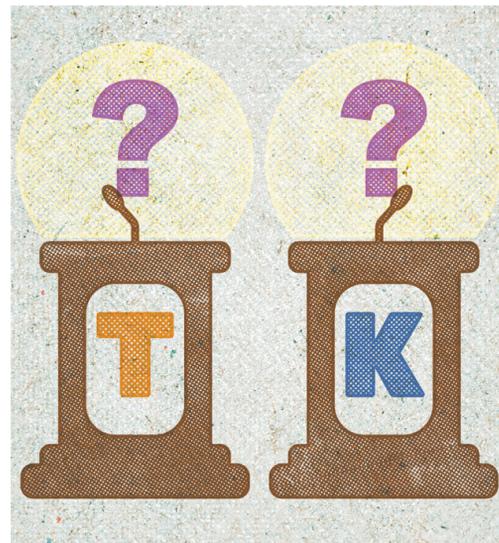


ILLUSTRATION BY GREG GROESCH

how they have not lived up to their promises. Remind viewers (though they don’t really need reminding) of the cost of bread, eggs, milk, gasoline and mortgage rates four years ago and what they are now. Promise to bring them down again by reducing federal debt and eliminating unnecessary government.

Quote Barack Obama that this isn’t a Black or White America, but the United States of America. Note that Bill Clinton balanced the federal budget, but his party has been taken over by an extremist (Ms. Harris) who is judged to be to the left of Sens. Bernie Sanders, Vermont independent, and Elizabeth Warren, Massachusetts Democrat.

Mr. Trump can’t win the debate if he doesn’t show up. Be gracious. Shake her hand. Tell Americans what you will do for America and remind voters what she (and Mr. Biden) have done to America. You can thank me later.

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

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Lesson from Netanyahu: Fight Iran's axis of evil

Do you want to be on the side of life or death?

By Gary Marx

Thanks to a generous invitation from House Speaker Mike Johnson, I was blessed to attend Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's July 24 speech in the U.S. Capitol. The address marked Mr. Netanyahu's fourth appearance before Congress — a record for foreign leaders likely never to be tied, let alone broken. As pro-Hamas demonstrators burned American flags and chanted "Allahu akbar" (Arabic for "God is great") in front of Union Station, Mr. Netanyahu stood proud, brave, defiant and fearless.

Last Oct. 7, Hamas terrorists committed an attack on Israel marked by rape, murder and infanticide. It was the deadliest day for the Jewish people since the Holocaust. While some individuals and groups around the world are unthinkable excusing Hamas' demonic attacks on Israel as justified, I am an American evangelical Christian, and I am proud to stand with Israel.

I have learned about antisemitism in the halls of Yad Vashem in Israel and in the gas chambers of Auschwitz, which I recently toured as part of a trip to Ukraine for the National Prayer Breakfast in Kyiv. From the Golan Heights to the fence line in the Gaza Strip, from the shores of Galilee to the Western Wall, I am honored to have witnessed the powerful history of Israel that Mr. Netanyahu explained to Congress.

During the prime minister's speech, I was reminded of the new axis of evil in our world today. Iran supplies Hamas and Russia with the same drones to kill civilians in Israel and Ukraine. Russian dictator Vladimir Putin signed a war pact with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and China

is lying in wait to attack Taiwan. Mr. Netanyahu was clear in his speech when he said: "For the forces of civilization to triumph, America and Israel must stand together because when we stand together, something very simple happens. We win, they lose."

Mr. Netanyahu recognized Israeli heroes and soldiers in his speech. He honored a soldier who grabbed a rifle and ran 8 miles to the front line to defend people on Oct. 7. Mr. Netanyahu also recognized rescued Israeli hostage Noa Argamani, whose bravery reminded me of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic priests Ivan Levitsky and Bohdan Geleta, who had just been released after over a year of captivity in Russia when I met them in Ukraine.

Tyrants always persecute innocent people for their faith — Hitler and Stalin are prime examples. Hamas has employed a corrupted version of Islam to legitimize the indiscriminate murder of Jewish people, and Russia has weaponized the Christian religion to create its own Kremlin-directed jihad. As Mr. Netanyahu said in his address: "It's a clash between barbarism and civilization. It's a clash between those who glorify death and those who sanctify life."

The question for Americans and the rest of the world is simple: Do you want to be on the side of life or death? I know what side I stand on, and the unwavering support for Israel that my country and my church offer Israel makes me proud to be an American and a follower of Jesus.

Gary Marx is president of Madison Strategies and former executive director of the Faith and Freedom Coalition. This material is distributed by Madison Strategies on behalf of Kyiv Global Outreach. More information is on file with the Department of Justice in Washington.



ILLUSTRATION BY HUNTER

Who is the real middle-class president?

The perils of Modern Monetary Theory

By Stephen Moore

President Biden talks incessantly about his "middle class out" economic strategy. Given his record, it would have been more accurate to call it the "middle class down and out" plan. Inflation has eroded any income gains under Mr. Biden's presidency.

Now Vice President Kamala Harris has her own riff on this theme. Her campaign motto is "Building up the middle class." It isn't exactly "make America great again," but Democrats don't have a lot of time to come up with anything catchier, given that Ms. Harris was reluctantly chosen as the eighth-inning relief pitcher for the president, who had long ago lost his fastball.

But Ms. Harris and Mr. Biden are, as the

In these numbers, I include the COVID-19 year 2020. Excluding that black swan event of the pandemic that year, Mr. Trump's number for income gains would have been well over \$6,000.

This same data shows that income gains for minorities and female-headed households were larger under Mr. Trump. Poverty rates also fell faster under Mr. Trump.

The reason for Biden-Harris' lousy record is that although incomes grew under both presidencies, inflation erased all the real income gains for workers. In other words, if the price of eggs, bread, rent and gas goes up by more than your paycheck, you're at best treading water. Most households are using pots and pans to keep the water out of the basement.

Mr. Biden and Ms. Harris seem to have really believed that inflation would transitory. They drank the Kool-Aid of a trendy new economic theory called Modern Monetary Theory. This theory posited that the U.S. government could spend and borrow without any collateral damage. But a student in a high school economics class could tell you that handing out money to stimulate demand for goods and services is likely to raise the price of goods and services. In the end, we learned the hard way: There's no getting around the law of supply and demand.

Now that the economy is showing signs of cracks in the hill, the only remedy Ms. Harris has is trillions of more spending and borrowing. Her campaign thinks the Federal Reserve can cut interest rates and the pain will disappear. Maybe. It is more likely, however, that this will only stimulate more spending

and make the economy even more vulnerable. What they won't do is cut excessive government spending and debt — for example, by canceling some \$300 billion of failed green energy programs.

The left shouts that Mr. Trump will rekindle inflation with his tax cuts. But that's a hard message to sell, given that there was virtually no inflation during the Trump presidency. His average annual inflation rate was 1.9%, versus 6% for Biden-Harris.

Mr. Trump will continue to argue to the voters that he is the president who will "build out" the middle class. Even though the future is hard to predict, he has history firmly on his side.

Stephen Moore is visiting senior fellow at The Heritage Foundation.

Every election cycle, some jokers try to sell the public on the idea that this is the most important election in history to boost television ratings or (now) clicks. Every cycle, they turn out to be wrong.

In the United States, at least, elections — and the governments they produce — are not leading indicators of public sentiment. They are lagging indicators. Elections simply provide a quantitative measure of what the voters believe and preserve. The governments that emerge from elections merely establish order and discipline in those areas that the American people have emotionally and intellectually pioneered.

John Adams captured this relationship between sentiments and action when he said, "The Revolution was effected before the war commenced. The Revolution was in the minds and hearts of the people" long before the first shot at Lexington. The country was already divided by the time the shooting started at Fort Sumter. The majority of the people had already made up their minds about civil rights long before President John F. Kennedy's assassination closed the question (in the affirmative) for the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

In practice, this means that elections in and of themselves aren't really that important; they simply measure extant sentiment. Moreover, the fortunate reality in the United States is that any single election — no matter how freighted with import by the contestants and observers — is rarely dispositive. Power is diffused between branches and levels of government and diffused temporally, with different offices being elected (or appointed) in the case of the judiciary at different times.

All of that is intentional and designed specifically to ensure that the government remains a servant (albeit a troublesome one) and not a master.

The other practical reality that flows from this catawampus arrangement is that the winning side of any election usually winds up disappointed because they don't get everything they wanted, and the losing side winds up pleasantly surprised that things didn't turn out as bad as they feared.

No, this isn't the most important election of your lifetime

To change the world, you must change people's hearts and minds first

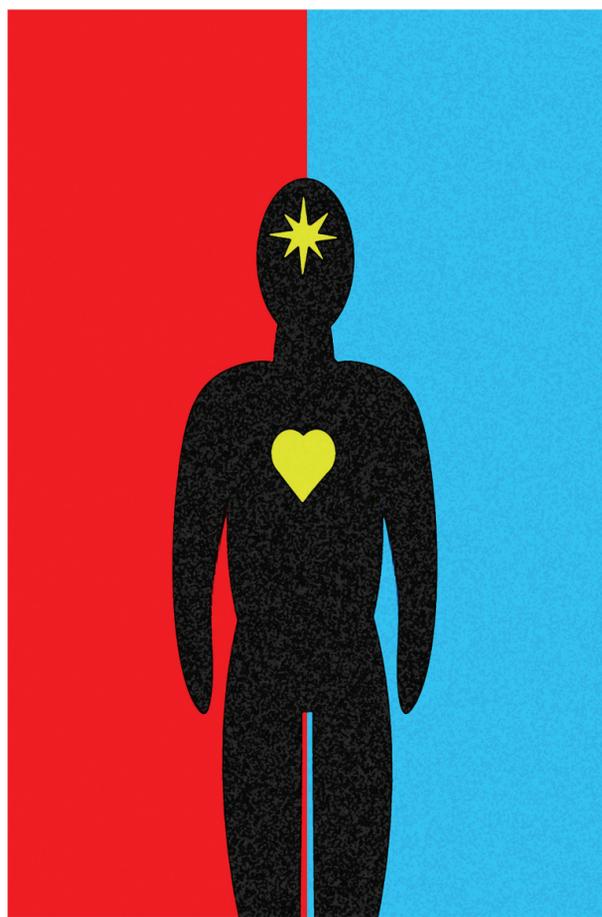


ILLUSTRATION BY HUNTER

The winners — and losers — are always certain that the victory in the current election will bring significant and enduring changes to the nation. They are usually wrong. It is important to recognize what politics and elections are and what they aren't. They are not about the soul of the nation. They are not about healing anything. They are not about some grand statement about the arc of justice.

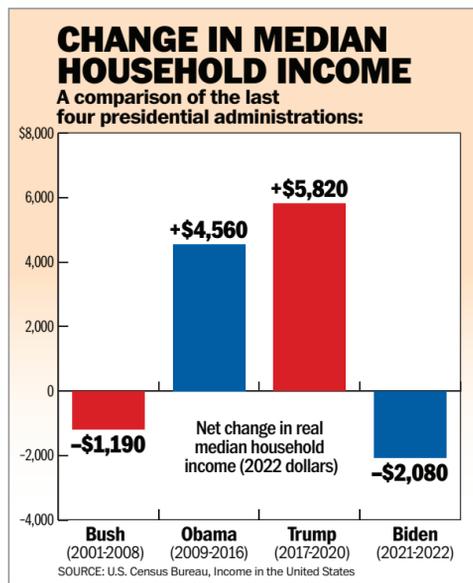
Elections are simply about how we as a society decide who gets to use the state's coercive power to encourage some

activities and discourage or outlaw others. As noted previously, elections are usually just a measurement of citizens' sentiments.

To really change the world, one would need to change the hearts and minds of people first.

Each election is sold as the most important election in the history of the republic. Obviously, all of them cannot be, and probability suggests that this one won't be either. Political defeats are temporary, and so are political victories. It is unwise to treat them as anything else.

Michael McKenna is an award-winning columnist at The Washington Times who has been involved in his share — and a few others' shares — of election defeats.



saying goes, birds of a feather who flock together. They are running on almost the same agenda we've seen for four years.

The central problem is that the record is much more meaningful for most Americans than the message. The irony of this "building up the middle class" mantra is that no administration in recent times has done more to tear down the middle class than Biden-Harris.

The chart below, based on the most recent Census Bureau data on incomes and poverty, shows that under President Donald Trump, middle-class incomes rose faster than under all three previous presidents combined.

The difference between the Trump and Biden administrations is \$8,000 per household in Mr. Trump's favor.



ALTERNATIVE HYPOTHESIS
BY MICHAEL MCKENNA

Truth vs. tort

Will FDA prevent the next infant formula crisis?

By Peter J. Pitts

On July 26, a jury found Abbott Laboratories' specialized formula for premature infants caused an Illinois baby to develop a dangerous bowel disease, ordering the health care company to pay \$495 million in damages. The verdict in Missouri state court is the second of such trials. The first was against Mead Johnson. Hundreds of similar cases are pending in courts around the country.

The tort floodgates are open, and there are dangerous consequences, not the least of which are that these lifesaving products could cease to exist in the United States. These low-margin products are manufactured by only two companies, Abbott and Mead Johnson. Common sense and basic economics point to these companies leaving this crucial product category, leaving high-risk premature infants (along with their parents and health care providers) with nowhere to turn except prayer — and triggering a public health crisis.

Dr. Benjamin D. Hoffman, president of the American Academy of Pediatrics, said: "Courtrooms are not the best place to determine clinical recommendations for the care of infants. Feeding decisions should be made by clinicians and families. These need to be individualized in the context of human milk availability, specific patient needs, and individual family preferences."

These products are safe and effective from a medical risk-benefit proposition. And according to the Academy of Pediatrics, "These special formulas provide an essential source of nutrition for preterm infants."

But that hasn't stopped the tort bar from pushing bogus litigation. This is causing confusion and uncertainty in the marketplace, and the Food and Drug Administration should immediately and publicly vouch for the veracity of the labeling and safety of the products.

If, as President Biden has so often said, "science is back," then it's time for the White House and our nation's leaders to act. After the FDA publicly comments, leaders should resuscitate the agency's Food Advisory Committee, with its first order of business being a high-level, expert discussion of the safety, effectiveness and labeling of specialized formula for premature infants. The agenda should also include a review of the agency's relevant Final Rule for Preventive Controls for Human Food.

But restarting an FDA advisory committee is mired in bureaucracy and won't happen quickly. So, in addition to beginning this process, the FDA should ask an independent third-party organization — such as the National Academies of Sciences — to create a blue-ribbon panel to discuss the best path forward for the FDA to take. After the recent baby formula shortage, the FDA asked the NAS to convene a similar panel to address the vulnerabilities in the infant formula market to mitigate future shortages.

Another route is for Congress to step up and recognize the dangers of a nation without any domestic manufacturers of specialized formula for premature infants. Considering the aggressive tort bar, perhaps legislation similar to federal vaccine liability protection is in order.

All of these solutions, however, will take time. In the meantime, the FDA and the administration cannot sit silently while plaintiffs' lawyers upend decades of established science. Left unchecked, the greed of the tort bar will result in a predictable consequence: dead babies. Policymakers must not allow this to happen. In the words of Confucius, "Be not ashamed of mistakes and thus make them crimes."

Peter J. Pitts, a former Food and Drug Administration associate commissioner, is president of the Center for Medicine in the Public Interest and a visiting professor at the University of Paris School of Medicine.

By Andrew P. Napolitano

In the months following the 9/11 attacks, the government blamed al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden for orchestrating them. Then, after it murdered bin Laden, the government decided that the true mastermind was Khalid Sheikh Mohammed.

By the time bin Laden was killed in 2011, Mohammed had already been tortured by CIA agents for three years at various black sites and charged with conspiracy to commit mass murder, to be tried before a U.S. military tribunal at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Mohammed and four other alleged conspirators have been awaiting trial since their arrival at Guantanamo in 2006. Since then, numerous government military and civilian prosecutors and numerous military judges have rotated into and out of the case. Two weeks ago, the government and the defendants agreed to a guilty plea in return for life in prison at Gitmo. Then, last week, the Department of Defense abruptly changed its mind and rescinded its approval of the guilty pleas.

Here is the backstory. The concept of military tribunals for the perpetrators of the 9/11 attacks was born in the administration of President George W. Bush, who argued that the attacks, though conducted by civilians on civilians, were of military magnitude and thus warranted a military response. Through the 22 years the U.S. military prison at Gitmo has existed, no one has been tried for causing or carrying out the crimes of 9/11. The government tried only one person for crimes related to 9/11. That was Zacarias Moussaoui, who pleaded guilty in federal court in Virginia to conspiracy for being the 20th hijacker and then was tried in a penalty phase trial where the jury chose life in prison.

Mr. Bush's rationale not only brought us the fruitless and destructive wars in Afghanistan and Iraq but also a host of legal problems unforeseen by Mr. Bush and his revenge-over-justice colleagues. The first legal issue was conspiracy. Since Mohammed did not carry out the attacks, he could be charged only with planning them. Conspiracy, however, is not a war crime; thus, no military tribunal could hear the case. So Congress devised a historic first: a military tribunal trying civilian crimes.

The next issue was where to try Mohammed and his colleagues. President Barack Obama wanted to close Gitmo, which costs \$540 million annually to operate, and try Mohammed and the others in federal courts. This would have been consistent with federal law and the U.S. Constitution. But Republicans in Congress viewed Mohammed as too dangerous to bring onto U.S. soil, and so Congress enacted legislation that prohibits the removal of Mohammed and the others to the United States for any purpose.

The prohibition of removal means that any life terms would need to be spent at Gitmo. It also means that there would be a legal obstacle to executing a death sentence, as Gitmo is not equipped to execute anyone.

Most troubling, however, is the government's problem of how to address the issue of torture. Mr. Bush believed that military men on military juries would neither cringe at torture nor hesitate to impose a death sentence. Yet when defendants in cases unrelated to 9/11 at Gitmo described the torture that CIA agents and military officials had inflicted upon them, military jurors were repulsed by what they heard and recommended clemency even for those who caused deaths.

These events — filing legally baseless charges, prohibiting the removal of civilian defendants to civilian courts and fear of the likely reaction of military jurors to testimony about torture — caused the prosecution team

Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and the problem of torture

No good comes from interfering with justice system for authoritarian reasons

to rethink the entire idea of putting Mohammed on trial. In March 2022, the government initiated secret plea-bargaining negotiations with defense counsel.

In large measure, government prosecutors — now the fourth team since 2006 — recognized that Mr. Bush's torturers had so brutalized the defendants that their allegedly voluntary confessions would likely be tossed by the trial judge or rejected by a jury. Moreover, there are serious ethical issues when lawyers defend torture — so serious that it could jeopardize their careers.

Why would the government agree to such a plea bargain for those it claims are the monsters who murdered 3,000 Americans on 9/11 and triggered all the horrors that followed those murders? What does the government fear?

What does it always fear? The truth.

Since the trial judge — the fourth judge on the case — had already accepted the guilty pleas before the Defense Department changed its mind, it is unclear if he will enforce them.

If he does not, there will be a trial. At trial, the defendants will be permitted to bring the government's imperialistic wars, its torture and its foreknowledge of 9/11 into the courtroom. The government knows that much of its behavior — including the CIA-orchestrated overthrow of a popularly elected prime minister of Iran in the early 1950s and the untruthful excuses for toppling Saddam Hussein — will show American foreign policy at its imperialistic and violent worst.

And the hours and weeks and months and years of repeated torture — all of it criminal — will undermine the case against Mohammed and the others.

This is what happens when our legal system is interfered with for authoritarian reasons. The tragedy of 9/11 happened on Mr. Bush's watch. What did the CIA know before 9/11? Mr. Bush compounded his ignorance and failures with boasts of bravado and torture — all of which have come back to haunt his current successor in the White House.

Defense and Justice Department lawyers have recognized that they cannot try this case without doing material damage to the American empire, built on death, lies and torture, without revealing the names and methods of the men who did these horrible deeds and the lies of the presidents who authorized them — and without the truth coming out at last.

What good has come from Mr. Bush's torturers? None.

To learn more about Judge Andrew Napolitano, visit <https://JudgeNap.com>.



ILLUSTRATION BY LINAS GARSYS

Scarborough

From page B1

new wholesale legislation on their iPhones and send their leftist edicts to the White House, where a befuddled Mr. Biden is handed a piece of paper to sign as if it were a new law.

In June, Mr. Schumer reacted to Chevron in a way that illustrates that Democrats have gone nuts: "The Trump MAGA Supreme Court has once again sided with powerful special interests and giant corporations against the middle class and American families. Their headlong rush to overturn 40 years of precedent and impose their own radical views is appalling."

Actually, the 6-3 court is good for democracy and bad for Democratic Party power junkies such as Mr. Schumer.

As Hans von Spakovsky, a legal fellow at The Heritage Foundation, told me: "The 6-3 court is essential to preserving our democratic republic because the three liberal justices see no reason to restrain an all-powerful central government, as their recent dissents demonstrate. If they were in the majority, the essential amendments of the Bill of Rights would be gutted."

Mr. Biden has already shown that he will rewrite the law.

Title IX is the 1972 education-centered civil rights law that gave women equal access to campus activities. Mr. Biden substantially rewrote it by adding a transgender category, something not remotely in Title IX. This immediately spurred legal challenges. Most federal judges to date have ruled he violated the Constitution.

Mr. Biden also keeps repaying \$400 billion in student loan debt even though the six justices ruled in 2023 that he needed Congress, which the Constitution empowers, to appropriate taxpayer money.

Mr. Biden has ignored democracy

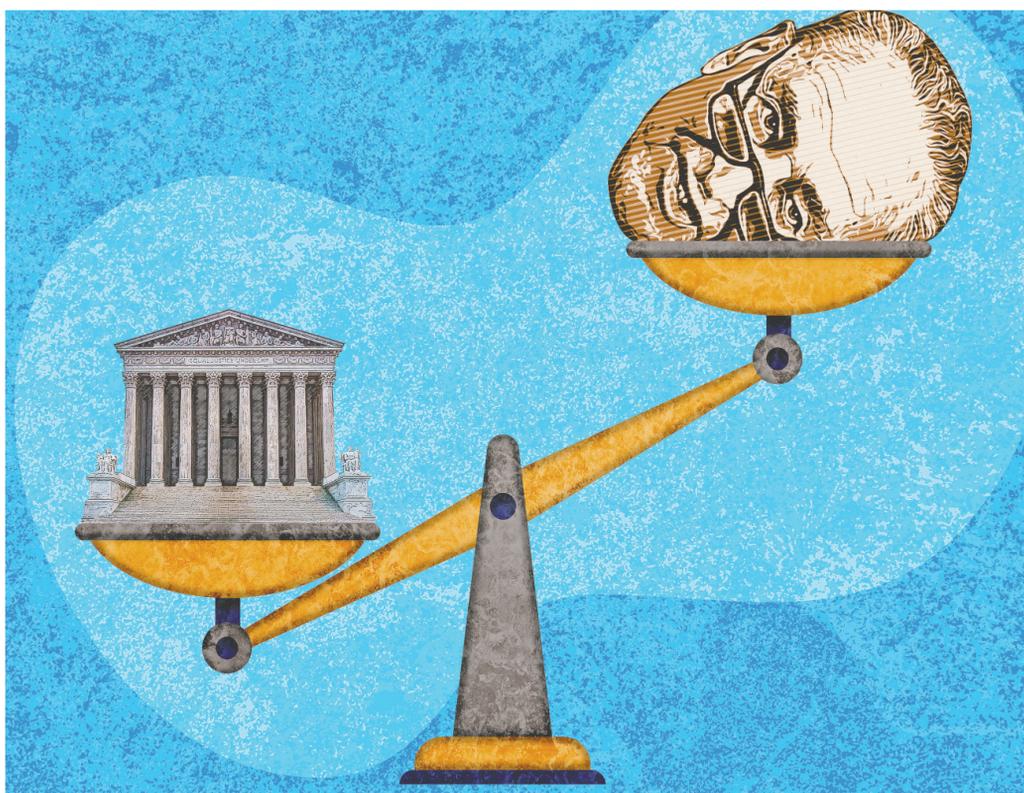


ILLUSTRATION BY GREG GROESCH

and the highest court, keeps trying to buy an election and brags about going around the justices, like Mr. Maduro, Venezuela's dictator, would.

To understand why New York City, Mr. Schumer, Mr. Biden and other leftists are so angry, you have to understand today's Democratic Party. Heeding the agendas of left-wing billionaire donors, they are on an unrelenting power high to turn our lives over to party rule.

The 6-3 Supreme Court stands in their way.

Stalin would have exterminated them. Mr. Biden and Mr. Schumer routinely belittle, harass and threaten

the nation's highest court.

On July 29, Mr. Biden launched his own legislative drone strike to turn 1 First St. NE into a busy politburo rubber-stamping left-wing policies. The judicial branch of government — the checks and balances the founders envisioned — would be a branch of the Democratic National Committee.

As a backdrop, this is what Democrats have been doing with help from liberal media: downgrading citizenship at the grassroots level so anyone can vote, flooding the country with illegal immigrants. Democrats want them voting quickly.

It goes on. Through their

embedded allies, the teachers unions, Democrats are brainwashing children into "woke" robots. They are indoctrinating government and corporations with a list of autocratic acronyms, such as DEI (diversity, equity and inclusion) that dictate what they can think and say, how they can get promoted and how to discriminate against people who don't fit.

Meanwhile, to control information, Democrats have launched a well-financed campaign to censor conservatives' competing ideas and information.

Also meanwhile, New York Democrats and Merrick Garland's Justice

Department have turned American justice into a hunt-Trump sporting event to eliminate Mr. Biden's (now Kamala Harris') main political rival: former President Donald Trump.

Here, too, the 6-3 Supreme Court stepped in to protect all presidents from being forever hounded by partisan prosecutors such as the ones in New York and Washington.

Mr. Schumer outdid himself in outrage.

"American democracy stands today at a perilous crossroads," he said.

Here are the American heroes standing up to Mr. Biden and Mr. Schumer: Chief Justice John Roberts and Justices Neil Gorsuch, Clarence Thomas, Samuel A. Alito, Amy Coney Barrett and Brett Kavanaugh.

Justice Kavanaugh came close to death in June 2022. An armed Nicholas Roske traveled to his suburban Washington home intent on murder by gunshot and knife. Arrested at the scene, he is charged with attempted murder.

Mr. Biden is good at destroying things, so why not the Supreme Court?

Congress gave him billions of dollars to build hundreds of thousands of electric vehicle chargers. The feds have built less than a dozen as he pushes automakers to build more electric cars. His \$42 billion broadband internet bill has not hooked up a single household. He opted for a \$500 million pier in the Gaza Strip, and it got swept away. He empowered Iran, Russian leader Vladimir Putin and other terrorists, brought back inflation and turned our border into a drug cartel fantasyland.

Here's a scoop: When Mr. Biden's Title IX rewrite reaches the Supreme Court, the six justices will overturn it, too. They will protect democracy, and Mr. Schumer will get really mad.

Rowan Scarborough is a columnist with The Washington Times.

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Legal Notices

FAIRFAX CABLE ACCESS CORPORATION FAIRFAX PUBLIC ACCESS NOTICE OF MEMBER MEETING:

The Fairfax Cable Access Corporation (d/b/a Fairfax Public Access (FPA)) annual meeting will be held on Sunday, September 29, 2024, from 1 pm to approximately 3 pm; however, voting will begin once quorum is established, and MEMBERS MAY CONTINUE TO CAST VOTES UNTIL 5 pm!

At minimum three (3) board positions will be filled in this election.

THIS YEAR THE MEMBER MEETING AND ELECTION WILL BE HELD BOTH "IN PERSON" at the FPA studios AND BY REMOTE PARTICIPATION VIA INTERNET, IN ACCORDANCE WITH VIRGINIA CODE § 13.1-844.2.

Members wishing to attend the annual meeting in person may simply attend the September 29, 2024, meeting, which starts at 1 pm in person at the FPA building.

In addition to both attending the meeting and voting in person, members may participate via the Zoom internet meeting app, and FPA will utilize the "ElectionBuddy" internet voting tool for our board election. SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO PARTICIPATE VIA ZOOM WILL BE PROVIDED TO VOTING MEMBERS BY SEPTEMBER 17, 2024.

HOWEVER, ANY FPA MEMBER WHO CASTS A BALLOT BOTH IN PERSON AND REMOTELY VIA ZOOM USING THE ELECTION BUDDY VOTING APP, RISKS REVOCATION OF FPA MEMBERSHIP.

The annual member meeting will be chaired by FPA President Hurriyet Ok. The annual elections for the board of directors will take place, along with other appropriate business. Voting will begin once quorum is established. (Both members present in the FPA building and members participating via Zoom will count toward establishing quorum.) Subsequent to establishing quorum, members may continue to cast votes until 5 pm, even if the meeting activities end sooner.

In order to vote in the election for the board of directors, one must be an FPA member in good standing on the Record Date, which is August 23, 2024. Further, in order to vote in the election, one must be an inhabitant of Fairfax County (including any incorporated town therein), the city of Fairfax or the city of Falls Church, Virginia. Photo identification, issued by the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (or school district verification, where age-appropriate), OR a Proof of Residency, as listed on the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles website page:

www.dmv.state.va.us/webdoc/pdf/dmv141.pdf

and as posted on this website page on September 19, 2024, which is ten (10) days prior to the Member Meeting and election, will be required to provide proof of residency in a jurisdiction listed above. The election will be by secret ballot and shall include voting via the ElectionBuddy internet voting tool and in-person voting for any who may be in the FPA building.

A person may become nominated for the Office of Director by filing a statement of candidacy, with FPA Board President Hurriyet Ok or FPA Board Secretary Gayle Yiotis, no later than August 30, 2024. Such a statement of candidacy may be mailed or hand-delivered to the address below (which closes at 10:00 pm on the last day to file) and addressed to either individual below:

Mr. Hurriyet Ok, President OR Ms. Gayle Yiotis, Secretary
Fairfax Public Access
2929-S Eskridge Road
Fairfax, VA 22031

If a statement of candidacy is hand-delivered, to the address above, it should be provided to a staff member on duty to ensure that it has been properly received. Please do not simply leave such a statement on the equipment room counter or elsewhere in the FPA building without a staff member's knowledge.

If a statement of candidacy is mailed, it must be mailed in time to be RECEIVED by August 30, 2024 (i.e., an August 30, 2024, postmark will not be sufficient). If mailed, it is highly recommended that the statement of candidacy be sent via certified mail with return receipt requested.

The statement of candidacy should include the candidate's name, street address, and a work, home or cell telephone number. All statements of candidacy should be signed by the candidate. In addition, a current resume and/or statement on why the candidate is running may be submitted until September 16, 2024, but the initial statement of candidacy must be received by August 30, 2024.

As stated in the FPA Bylaws, "Directors are precluded from serving the Corporation in any other capacity and receiving compensation therefor where they are an agent of the Corporation. Directors may be unpaid (emphasis added) producers and have all of the rights of any other similarly qualified member."

Run Dates: August 8th, 2024
August 15th, 2024

AD#86104

There is now pending before the District of Columbia Superior Court a civil action, case number 2024-CAB-004329 seeking to affect title to the property now or formerly owned by the Defendant Edwin Young, located at 5002 Kimi Gray Court SE, Washington, DC 20019. 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 19th day of July 2024.

Run Dates: August 1st, 2024
August 8th, 2024
August 15th, 2024

AD#85897

There is now pending before the District of Columbia Superior Court a civil action, case number 2023-CAB-001879 seeking to affect title to the property now or formerly owned by the Defendant Charlotte L. Braxton, located at 1621 Minnesota Avenue, SE, Washington, DC 20020. 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: August 1st, 2024
August 8th, 2024
August 15th, 2024

AD#85898

There is now pending before the District of Columbia Superior Court a civil action, case number 2023-CAB-004320 seeking to affect title to the property now or formerly owned by the Defendant Tiffany Q. Simms, located at 4402 1st Place, NE, Unit 32, 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: July 25th, 2024
August 1st, 2024
August 8th, 2024

AD#85747

Legal Notices

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PROBATE DIVISION

2023 ADM 001000
Estate of Beulah M. McCall Deceased

Notice of Standard Probate (For estates of decedents dying on or after July 1, 1995)

Notice is hereby given that a petition has been filed in this Court by Poonkuzhali Vallinayagam c/o Sun West Mortgage Company, for standard probate, including the appointment of one or more personal representatives. Unless a responsive pleading in the form of a complaint or an objection in accordance with Superior Court Probate Division Rule 407 is filed in this Court within 30 days from the date of first publication of this notice, the Court may take the action hereinafter set forth. Admit to probate the will dated July 5, 2013 exhibited with the petition upon proof satisfactory to the Court of due execution by affidavit of the witnesses or otherwise appoint a supervised personal representative.

Date of first publication: August 1, 2024

Name of newspapers: The Washington Times Washington Law Reporter

/s/ Jacob W. Deaven Petitioner/Attorney 110 N. Washington Street, Suite 500 Rockville, MD 20850 301-656-5775 jdeaven@pskfirm.com Phone Number of Petitioner/Attorney

/s/ Nicole Stevens Register of Wills Clerk of the Probate Division

August 1, 8, 15, 2024 Ad#85828

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PROBATE DIVISION

2024 ADM 852

Estate of Kather Fair White Deceased

Notice of Standard Probate (For estates of decedents dying on or after July 1, 1995)

Notice is hereby given that a petition has been filed in this Court by PNC Bank, National Association, c/o Lori Wysons, for standard probate, including the appointment of one or more personal representatives. Unless a responsive pleading in the form of a complaint or an objection in accordance with Superior Court Probate Division Rule 407 is filed in this Court within 30 days from the date of first publication of this notice, the Court may take the action hereinafter set forth. In the absence of a will or proof satisfactory to the Court of due execution, enter an order determining that the decedent died intestate, appoint a supervised personal representative.

Date of first publication: July 25, 2024

Name of newspapers: The Washington Times Washington Law Reporter

/s/ Jacob W. Deaven Petitioner/Attorney 110 N. Washington Street, Suite 500 Rockville, MD 20850 301-656-5775 jdeaven@pskfirm.com Phone Number of Petitioner/Attorney

/s/ Nicole Stevens Register of Wills Clerk of the Probate Division

July 25, 2024 August 1, 8, 15, 2024 Ad#85965

Legal Notices

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA CIVIL DIVISION
Civil Action No. 2024-CAB-003420
V.N.N.C., INC.

c/o Nathan Bresce, Jackson & Campbell, P.C. 2300 N Street, NW, Suite 300, Washington, DC 20037
Plaintiff
v.
DAVID M. WEINBERG, 3001 Veazey Terrace, NW, Apt. 1127, Washington, DC 20008
and
NICOLE C. BOUVIER, 3001 Veazey Terrace, NW, Apt. 1127, Washington, DC 20008
and
CALIBER HOME LOANS, INC., 650 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10022

ANY AND ALL PERSONS CLAIMING AN OWNERSHIP INTEREST IN OR LIEN UPON 3001 VEAZEY TERRACE, N.W., APARTMENT #1127, WASHINGTON, DC, 20008, OR THE STOCK CERTIFICATE FOR 238 SHARES OF CAPITAL STOCK IN V.N.N.C., INC., ISSUED TO DAVID M. WEINBERG AND NICOLE C. BOUVIER ASSIGNED TO THE APARTMENT, OR THE STOCK CERTIFICATE FOR 12 SHARES OF CAPITAL STOCK IN V.N.N.C., INC. ISSUED TO DAVID M. WEINBERG AND NICOLE C. BOUVIER ASSIGNED TO PARKING SPACE A-181X, OR THE STOCK CERTIFICATE FOR 12 SHARES OF CAPITAL STOCK IN V.N.N.C., INC. ISSUED TO DAVID M. WEINBERG AND NICOLE C. BOUVIER REGARDING THE SAME APARTMENT, OR THE RECOGNITION AGREEMENT REGARDING THE APARTMENT AND THE PARKING SPACES
Defendants
ORDER OF PUBLICATION

There is now pending before the District of Columbia Superior Court an action, Case Number 2024 CAB 003420, seeking to quiet title pertaining to real property known as 3001 Veazey Terrace, NW, Apt #1127, Washington, D.C. 20008, Parking Space A-181X and Parking Space A-181Y. 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, within 21 days of being served;

Pursuant to the Judge Tunnage's Order dated July 19, 2024.

ORDERED by the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, that notice be given by insertion of a copy of this order in The Daily Washington Law Reporter and The Washington Times, newspapers having a general circulation in the District of Columbia, once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks, notifying any and all persons claiming any ownership interest in that certain real property which is the subject matter of this action shall fail to file any such claims herein within forty (40) days follow, and the date of said first publication, exclusive of Sundays and legal holidays, this action will be taken as confessed and a default entered by the Clerk against any and all such person without further Court action, and any such claim shall be foreclosed and forever barred as an ownership claim, lien, or encumbrance upon said real property

July 25, 2024 August 1, 8, 2024 Ad#85705

STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT MILWAUKEE COUNTY

FIRST-CITIZENS BANK AND TRUST COMPANY, 100 East Tryon Rd. Raleigh, NC 27603
Plaintiff
v.
Case No.: 2024CV004512
Case Code: 30301

FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORP., c/o Attorney General of the United State US Dept. of Justice 950 Pennsylvania Ave., NW Washington, DC 20530-0001
Defendant

PUBLICATION SUMMONS

STATE OF WISCONSIN, to each person named above as a defendant:

You are hereby notified that the plaintiff named above has filed a lawsuit or other legal action against you.

Within 40 days after August 1, 2024, you must respond with a written demand for a copy of the complaint. The demand must be sent or delivered to the court, whose address is 901 N. 9th St., Milwaukee, WI 53223, the attention of Branch 16, and Hanson & Payne, LLC, plaintiff's attorneys, whose address is 740 N. James Lovell St., Milwaukee, WI 53233, (414) 271-4550. You may have an attorney help or represent you.

If you do not demand a copy of the complaint within 40 days after August 1, 2024, the court may grant judgment against you for the award of money or other legal action requested in the complaint, and you may lose your right to object to anything that is or may be incorrect in the complaint. A judgment may be enforced as provided by law. A judgment awarding money may become a lien against any real estate you own now or in the future, and may also be enforced by garnishment or seizure of property.

Dated this 29th day of July, 2024.

HANSON & PAYNE, LLC
Attorneys for Plaintiff

By: /s/ Ben Payne
SBN 1041478

August 1, 8, 15, 2024
Ad#85899

NOTICE OF COMPLAINT BY PUBLICATION

A Complaint for Forfeiture has been filed in Case No. D-06-CV-24-019989 Montgomery County, Maryland vs U.S. Currency in the amount of \$5,719.00, Erwin O. Coronado-Villalobos and Mirna O. Romero-Ramirez on the 2nd day of August, 2024, in the District Court of Maryland for Montgomery County. The \$5,719.00 was seized on or about November 2, 2023 at or near 806 Rosemere Avenue, Silver Spring, Maryland 20904. The object of the Complaint is to obtain an Order from the Court forfeiting all of the right, title, and interest of the said currency, both legal and equitable, in and to the said currency. The said currency is subject to forfeiture in that it was used in close proximity to contraband controlled dangerous substance, controlled paraphernalia, and was otherwise used or intended for use in connection with illegal manufacture, distribution, dispensing, or possession of controlled dangerous substance, in violation of Criminal Procedure Article, Section 12-101 et seq., of the Annotated Code of Maryland.

The above property will be forfeited if an Answer is not timely filed. An Answer may be filed with the Clerk of the District Court of Maryland for Montgomery County within 60 days of August 22, 2024, the last publication date of this notice. Additional information may be obtained from Haley M. Roberts, Associate County Attorney, 101 Monroe Street, 3rd Floor, Rockville, MD 20850, phone number (240) 777-6700.

If the currency is not needed for evidentiary purposes in a judicial proceeding, the owner of the seized currency may obtain possession of the currency pending forfeiture by posting a bond in the manner provided in Subsection 12-208 of the Criminal Procedure Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland.

August 8, 15, 22, 2024
Ad#86018



Legal Notices

There is now pending before the District of Columbia Superior Court a civil action, case number 2023-CAB-005878 seeking to affect title to the property now or formerly owned by the Defendant Estate of Frances Ann Kenkel, located at 9010 Cherrytree Drive, Alexandria, VA 22309. 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: July 25th, 2024 August 1st, 2024 August 8th, 2024

AD#85753

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PROBATE DIVISION

2024 ADM 000936

Estate of Annette D. Carver Deceased

NOTICE OF STANDARD PROBATE (For estates of decedents dying on or after July 1, 1995)

Notice is hereby given that a petition has been filed in this Court by Select Portfolio Servicing, Inc. as attorney in fact for Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, as Trustee for the benefit of the Freddie Mac Seasoned Credit Risk Transfer Trust, Series 2020-2, by Douglas Bohne, for standard probate, including the appointment of one or more personal representatives. Unless a responsive pleading in the form of a complaint or an objection in accordance with Superior Court Probate Division Rule 407 is filed in this Court within 30 days from the date of first publication of this notice, the Court may take the action hereinafter set forth. In the absence of a will or proof satisfactory to the Court of due execution, enter an order determining that the decedent died intestate, appoint a supervised personal representative.

Date of first publication: August 8, 2024

Name of newspapers: The Washington Times Daily Washington Law Reporter

/s/ Sarah Hannan Petitioner/Attorney BWW Law Group LLC 6003 Executive Boulevard Suite 101 Rockville, MD 20852 301-961-6555 Ext 3811 Phone Number of Petitioner/Attorney sarah.hannan@bww-law.com

/s/ Nicole Stevens Register of Wills Clerk of the Probate Division August 8,15,22, 2024 Ad#85972

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PROBATE DIVISION

2024 ADM 000468

Rosa M. Jeter Name of Decedent

Notice of Appointment, Notice to Creditors and Notice to Unknown Heirs

Clara Jeter, whose address is 1448 Ridge Place SE, Washington DC 20020 was appointed Personal Representative of the estate of Rosa M. Jeter who died on January 17, 2024 without a Will and will serve without Court supervision. All unknown heirs and heirs whose whereabouts are unknown shall enter their appearance in this proceeding. Objections to such appointment shall be filed with the Register of Wills, D.C., Building A, 515 5th Street, N.W., 3rd Floor, Washington, DC 20001, on or before February 8, 2025. Claims against the decedent shall be presented to the undersigned with a copy to the Register of Wills or filed with the Register of Wills with a copy to the undersigned, on or before February 8, 2025, or be forever barred. Persons believed to be heirs or legatees of the decedent who do not receive a copy of this notice by mail within 25 days of its first publication shall so inform the Register of Wills, including name, address and relationship.

Date of first publication August 8, 2024

Name of newspaper and/or periodical: The Washington Times Daily Washington Law Reporter bumpsey@hotmail.com /s/ Clara Jeter Personal Representative

True Test Copy /s/ Nicole Stevens Register of Wills August 8,15,22, 2024 Ad#85976

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Legal Notices

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PROBATE DIVISION

2024 ADM 000823

Mary Mattis McLean Name of Decedent

Kent D. Brostrom, Esq. 4800 Montgomery Lane, Suite 620 Bethesda, MD 20814 Name and Address of Attorney

Notice of Appointment, Notice to Creditors and Notice to Unknown Heirs

James R. McLean, whose address is 6845 Apache Drive, Indian Head Park, IL 60525 was appointed Personal Representative of the estate of Mary Mattis McLean who died on June 10, 2024 with a Will and will serve without Court supervision. All unknown heirs and heirs whose whereabouts are unknown shall enter their appearance in this proceeding. Objections to such appointment shall be filed with the Register of Wills, D.C., Building A, 515 5th Street, N.W., 3rd Floor, Washington, DC 20001, on or before January 25, 2025. Claims against the decedent shall be presented to the undersigned with a copy to the Register of Wills or filed with the Register of Wills with a copy to the undersigned, on or before February 8, 2025. Claims against the decedent shall be presented to the undersigned with a copy to the Register of Wills with a copy to the undersigned, on or before February 8, 2025, or be forever barred. Persons believed to be heirs or legatees of the decedent who do not receive a copy of this notice by mail within 25 days of its publication shall so inform the Register of Wills, including name, address and relationship.

Date of first publication July 25, 2024

Name of newspaper and/or periodical: The Washington Times Daily Washington Law Reporter kent@kentlaw.com /s/ James R. McLean Personal Representative

TRUE TEST COPY /s/ Nicole Stevens Register of Wills July 25, 2024 August 1,8 & 15, 2024 Ad#85551

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PROBATE DIVISION

2024 ADM 000836

Charlotte B. Streidel Name of Decedent

Janet B. Law, Esq. 301-961-6555 Ext 3811 (Janet B. Law, Esq. 1101 17th Street, NW Suite 820 Washington, DC 20036 Name and Address of Attorney

Notice of Appointment, Notice to Creditors and Notice to Unknown Heirs

James W. Asp, whose address is 1209 28th Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20007 was appointed Personal Representative of the estate of Charlotte B. Streidel who died on May 25, 2024 with a Will and will serve without Court supervision. All unknown heirs and heirs whose whereabouts are unknown shall enter their appearance in this proceeding. Objections to such appointment (or to the probate of decedent's Will) shall be filed with the Register of Wills, D.C., Building A, 515 5th Street, N.W., 3rd Floor, Washington, DC 20001, on or before February 08, 2025. Claims against the decedent shall be presented to the undersigned with a copy to the Register of Wills or filed with the Register of Wills with a copy to the undersigned, on or before February 08, 2025, or be forever barred. Persons believed to be heirs or legatees of the decedent who do not receive a copy of this notice by mail within 25 days of its first publication shall so inform the Register of Wills, including name, address and relationship.

Date of first publication August 8, 2024

Name of newspaper and/or periodical: The Washington Times Daily Washington Law Reporter jwasp74@gmail.com /s/ James W. Asp Personal Representative

TRUE TEST COPY /s/ Nicole Stevens REGISTER OF WILLS August 8,15,22, 2024 Ad#85954

Please take notice that upon expiration of 30 days after publication of this notice, the undersigned institution will transfer over to

Benny S. Lee Administrator of the Estate of John Shek Lee who died June 27, 2023 and who was at the time of death domiciled in Las Vegas, NV certain funds which are held by the undersigned for John Shek Lee

Date of first publication August 8, 2024

Name of newspaper and/or periodical: The Washington Times Daily Washington Law Reporter jids@jayedlaw.com /s/ Mevelyn E. Fudge Personal Representative

TRUE TEST COPY /s/ Nicole Stevens REGISTER OF WILLS August 8,15,22, 2024 Ad#85974

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PROBATE DIVISION

2024 ADM 000853

Mevelyn E. Fudge (a/k/a Mevelyn Earlene Fudge) Name of Decedent

James D. Saintvill Jay Law PLLC 700 P Street, NW, Suite 700 Washington, DC 20005 Name and Address of Attorney

Notice of Appointment, Notice to Creditors and Notice to Unknown Heirs

James W. Asp, whose address is 1209 28th Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20007 was appointed Personal Representative of the estate of Mevelyn E. Fudge (a/k/a Mevelyn Earlene Fudge) who died on August 25, 2023 with a Will and will serve without Court supervision. All unknown heirs and heirs whose whereabouts are unknown shall enter their appearance in this proceeding. Objections to such appointment (or to the probate of decedent's Will) shall be filed with the Register of Wills, D.C., Building A, 515 5th Street, N.W., 3rd Floor, Washington, DC 20001, on or before February 2, 2025. Claims against the decedent shall be presented to the undersigned with a copy to the Register of Wills or filed with the Register of Wills with a copy to the undersigned, on or before February 2, 2025, or be forever barred. Persons believed to be heirs or legatees of the decedent who do not receive a copy of this notice by mail within 25 days of its first publication shall so inform the Register of Wills, including name, address and relationship.

Date of first publication August 8, 2024

Name of newspaper and/or periodical: The Washington Times Daily Washington Law Reporter bumpsey@hotmail.com /s/ Clara Jeter Personal Representative

Legal Notices

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PROBATE DIVISION

2024 ADM 000878

Vivian Margaret Fernandes Name of Decedent

Alice Hwang (achwang@janhoff.com) 1629 K Street, NW Washington, DC 20006 Name and Address of Attorney

Notice of Appointment, Notice to Creditors and Notice to Unknown Heirs

Thomas D. Raithe, whose address is 2714 Quebec Street, NW, Washington, DC 20008 was appointed Personal Representative of the estate of Vivian Margaret Fernandes who died on January 29, 2024 with a Will and will serve without Court supervision. All unknown heirs and heirs whose whereabouts are unknown shall enter their appearance in this proceeding. Objections to such appointment (or to the probate of decedent's Will) shall be filed with the Register of Wills, D.C., Building A, 515 5th Street, N.W., 3rd Floor, Washington, DC 20001, on or before February 8, 2025. Claims against the decedent shall be presented to the undersigned with a copy to the Register of Wills or filed with the Register of Wills with a copy to the undersigned, on or before February 8, 2025, or be forever barred. Persons believed to be heirs or legatees of the decedent who do not receive a copy of this notice by mail within 25 days of its first publication shall so inform the Register of Wills, including name, address and relationship.

Date of first publication July 25, 2024

Name of newspaper and/or periodical: The Washington Times Daily Washington Law Reporter kent@kentlaw.com /s/ Thomas D. Raithe Personal Representative

TRUE TEST COPY /s/ Nicole Stevens REGISTER OF WILLS August 8,15,22, 2024 Ad#85989

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PROBATE DIVISION

2024 ADM 000882

Juanita G. Harris Name of Decedent

Ronald Deutsch, Esq. Jason Murphy, Esq. Cohn Goldberg & Deutsch, LLC 526 King Street, #201 Alexandria, VA 22314 Name and Address of Attorney

Notice of Appointment, Notice to Creditors and Notice to Unknown Heirs

Bobby Harris, Sr., whose address is 1308 Floral Street, NW, Washington, DC 20002 was appointed Personal Representative of the estate of Juanita G. Harris who died on February 13, 2024 with a Will and will serve without Court supervision. All unknown heirs and heirs whose whereabouts are unknown shall enter their appearance in this proceeding. Objections to such appointment (or to the probate of decedent's Will) shall be filed with the Register of Wills, D.C., Building A, 515 5th Street, N.W., 3rd Floor, Washington, DC 20001, on or before February 8, 2025. Claims against the decedent shall be presented to the undersigned with a copy to the Register of Wills or filed with the Register of Wills with a copy to the undersigned, on or before February 8, 2025, or be forever barred. Persons believed to be heirs or legatees of the decedent who do not receive a copy of this notice by mail within 25 days of its first publication shall so inform the Register of Wills, including name, address and relationship.

Date of first publication July 25, 2024

Name of newspaper and/or periodical: The Washington Times Daily Washington Law Reporter /s/ Sarah Hannan Petitioner/Attorney BWW Law Group LLC 6003 Executive Boulevard Suite 101 Rockville, MD 20852 301-961-6555 Ext 3811 Phone Number of Petitioner/Attorney sarah.hannan@bww-law.com

/s/ Nicole Stevens Register of Wills Clerk of the Probate Division August 8,15,22, 2024 Ad#85971

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PROBATE DIVISION

2024 ADM 000856

Estate of Lillie Mae Valentine Deceased

NOTICE OF STANDARD PROBATE (For estates of decedents dying on or after July 1, 1995)

Notice is hereby given that a petition has been filed in this Court by PHH Mortgage Corporation, by Lisa Silva, for standard probate, including the appointment of one or more personal representatives. Unless a responsive pleading in the form of a complaint or an objection in accordance with Superior Court Probate Division Rule 407 is filed in this Court within 30 days from the date of first publication of this notice, the Court may take the action hereinafter set forth. In the absence of a will or proof satisfactory to the Court of due execution, enter an order determining that the decedent died intestate, appoint a supervised personal representative.

Date of first publication July 25, 2024

Name of newspapers: The Washington Times Daily Washington Law Reporter /s/ Sarah Hannan Petitioner/Attorney BWW Law Group LLC 6003 Executive Boulevard Suite 101 Rockville, MD 20852 301-961-6555 Ext 3811 Phone Number of Petitioner/Attorney sarah.hannan@bww-law.com

/s/ Nicole Stevens Register of Wills Clerk of the Probate Division August 8,15,22, 2024 Ad#85967

Legal Notices

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PROBATE DIVISION

2024 ADM 000608

Estate of Helen B. Scott Deceased

NOTICE OF STANDARD PROBATE (For estates of decedents dying on or after July 1, 1995)

Notice is hereby given that a petition has been filed in this Court by Specialized Loan Servicing, LLC as attorney in fact for Banc of America Funding Corporation 2005-1, U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee, by Cynthia Wallace, for standard probate, including the appointment of one or more personal representatives. Unless a responsive pleading in the form of a complaint or an objection in accordance with Superior Court Probate Division Rule 407 is filed in this Court within 30 days from the date of first publication of this notice, the Court may take the action hereinafter set forth. In the absence of a will or proof satisfactory to the Court of due execution, enter an order determining that the decedent died intestate, appoint a supervised personal representative.

Date of first publication August 8, 2024

Name of newspapers: The Washington Times Daily Washington Law Reporter /s/ Sarah Hannan Petitioner/Attorney BWW Law Group LLC 6003 Executive Boulevard Suite 101 Rockville, MD 20852 301-961-6555 Ext 3811 Phone Number of Petitioner/Attorney sarah.hannan@bww-law.com

/s/ Nicole Stevens Register of Wills Clerk of the Probate Division August 8,15,22, 2024 Ad#85969

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PROBATE DIVISION

2024 ADM 000856

Estate of Lillie Mae Valentine Deceased

NOTICE OF STANDARD PROBATE (For estates of decedents dying on or after July 1, 1995)

Notice is hereby given that a petition has been filed in this Court by Natlors Mortgage LLC, by Yvonne Acosta, for standard probate, including the appointment of one or more personal representatives. Unless a responsive pleading in the form of a complaint or an objection in accordance with Superior Court Probate Division Rule 407 is filed in this Court within 30 days from the date of first publication of this notice, the Court may take the action hereinafter set forth. In the absence of a will or proof satisfactory to the Court of due execution, enter an order determining that the decedent died intestate, appoint a supervised personal representative.

Date of first publication August 8, 2024

Name of newspapers: The Washington Times Daily Washington Law Reporter /s/ Sarah Hannan Petitioner/Attorney BWW Law Group LLC 6003 Executive Boulevard Suite 101 Rockville, MD 20852 301-961-6555 Ext 3811 Phone Number of Petitioner/Attorney sarah.hannan@bww-law.com

/s/ Nicole Stevens Register of Wills Clerk of the Probate Division August 8,15,22, 2024 Ad#85971

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PROBATE DIVISION

2024 ADM 000926

Estate of Alonzo Nicholson Deceased

NOTICE OF STANDARD PROBATE (For estates of decedents dying on or after July 1, 1995)

Notice is hereby given that a petition has been filed in this Court by Natlors Mortgage LLC, by Yvonne Acosta, for standard probate, including the appointment of one or more personal representatives. Unless a responsive pleading in the form of a complaint or an objection in accordance with Superior Court Probate Division Rule 407 is filed in this Court within 30 days from the date of first publication of this notice, the Court may take the action hereinafter set forth. In the absence of a will or proof satisfactory to the Court of due execution, enter an order determining that the decedent died intestate, appoint a supervised personal representative.

Date of first publication August 8, 2024

Name of newspapers: The Washington Times Daily Washington Law Reporter /s/ Sarah Hannan Petitioner/Attorney BWW Law Group LLC 6003 Executive Boulevard Suite 101 Rockville, MD 20852 301-961-6555 Ext 3811 Phone Number of Petitioner/Attorney sarah.hannan@bww-law.com

/s/ Nicole Stevens Register of Wills Clerk of the Probate Division August 8,15,22, 2024 Ad#85971

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PROBATE DIVISION

2024 ADM 000856

Estate of Lillie Mae Valentine Deceased

NOTICE OF STANDARD PROBATE (For estates of decedents dying on or after July 1, 1995)

Notice is hereby given that a petition has been filed in this Court by Natlors Mortgage LLC, by Yvonne Acosta, for standard probate, including the appointment of one or more personal representatives. Unless a responsive pleading in the form of a complaint or an objection in accordance with Superior Court Probate Division Rule 407 is filed in this Court within 30 days from the date of first publication of this notice, the Court may take the action hereinafter set forth. In the absence of a will or proof satisfactory to the Court of due execution, enter an order determining that the decedent died intestate, appoint a supervised personal representative.

Date of first publication August 8, 2024

Name of newspapers: The Washington Times Daily Washington Law Reporter /s/ Sarah Hannan Petitioner/Attorney BWW Law Group LLC 6003 Executive Boulevard Suite 101 Rockville, MD 20852 301-961-6555 Ext 3811 Phone Number of Petitioner/Attorney sarah.hannan@bww-law.com

/s/ Nicole Stevens Register of Wills Clerk of the Probate Division August 8,15,22, 2024 Ad#85971

Legal Notices

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PROBATE DIVISION

2024 ADM 000915

Estate of Laverne Seegers Deceased

NOTICE OF STANDARD PROBATE (For estates of decedents dying on or after July 1, 1995)

Notice is hereby given that a petition has been filed in this Court by PennyM Loan Service, LLC, by Lallique Bjurstrom, for standard probate, including the appointment of one or more personal representatives. Unless a responsive pleading in the form of a complaint or an objection in accordance with Superior Court Probate Division Rule 407 is filed in this Court within 30 days from the date of first publication of this notice, the Court may take the action hereinafter set forth. In the absence of a will or proof satisfactory to the Court of due execution, enter an order determining that the decedent died intestate, appoint a supervised personal representative.

Date of first publication August 8, 2024

Name of newspapers: The Washington Times Daily Washington Law Reporter /s/ Sarah Hannan Petitioner/Attorney BWW Law Group LLC 6003 Executive Boulevard Suite 101 Rockville, MD 20852 301-961-6555 Ext 3811 Phone Number of Petitioner/Attorney sarah.hannan@bww-law.com

/s/ Nicole Stevens Register of Wills Clerk of the Probate Division August 8,15,22, 2024 Ad#85969

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PROBATE DIVISION

2024 ADM 000926

Estate of Alonzo Nicholson Deceased

NOTICE OF STANDARD PROBATE (For estates of decedents dying on or after July 1, 1995)

Notice is hereby given that a petition has been filed in this Court by Natlors Mortgage LLC, by Yvonne Acosta, for standard probate, including the appointment of one or more personal representatives. Unless a responsive pleading in the form of a complaint or an objection in accordance with Superior Court Probate Division Rule 407 is filed in this Court within 30 days from the date of first publication of this notice, the Court may take the action hereinafter set forth. In the absence of a will or proof satisfactory to the Court of due execution, enter an order determining that the decedent died intestate, appoint a supervised personal representative.

Date of first publication August 8, 2024

Name of newspapers: The Washington Times Daily Washington Law Reporter /s/ Sarah Hannan Petitioner/Attorney BWW Law Group LLC 6003 Executive Boulevard Suite 101 Rockville, MD 20852 301-961-6555 Ext 3811 Phone Number of Petitioner/Attorney sarah.hannan@bww-law.com

/s/ Nicole Stevens Register of Wills Clerk of the Probate Division August 8,15,22, 2024 Ad#85971

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PROBATE DIVISION

2024 ADM 000926

Estate of Alonzo Nicholson Deceased

NOTICE OF STANDARD PROBATE (For estates of decedents dying on or after July 1, 1995)

Notice is hereby given that a petition has been filed in this Court by Natlors Mortgage LLC, by Yvonne Acosta, for standard probate, including the appointment of one or more personal representatives. Unless a responsive pleading in the form of a complaint or an objection in accordance with Superior Court Probate Division Rule 407 is filed in this Court within 30 days from the date of first publication of this notice, the Court may take the action hereinafter set forth. In the absence of a will or proof satisfactory to the Court of due execution, enter an order determining that the decedent died intestate, appoint a supervised personal representative.

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Name of newspapers: The Washington Times Daily Washington Law Reporter /s/ Sarah Hannan Petitioner/Attorney BWW Law Group LLC 6003 Executive Boulevard Suite 101 Rockville, MD 20852 301-961-6555 Ext 3811 Phone Number of Petitioner/Attorney sarah.hannan@bww-law.com

/s/ Nicole Stevens Register of Wills Clerk of the Probate Division August 8,15,22, 2024 Ad#85971

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PROBATE DIVISION

2024 ADM 000926

Estate of Alonzo Nicholson Deceased

NOTICE OF STANDARD PROBATE (For estates of decedents dying on or after July 1, 1995)

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/s/ Nicole Stevens Register of Wills Clerk of the Probate Division August 8,15,22, 2024 Ad#85971

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PROBATE DIVISION

2024 ADM 000915

Estate of Laverne Seegers Deceased

NOTICE OF STANDARD PROBATE (For estates of decedents dying on or after July 1, 1995)

Notice is hereby given that a petition has been filed in this Court by PennyM Loan Service, LLC, by Lallique Bjurstrom, for standard probate, including the appointment of one or more personal representatives. Unless a responsive pleading in the form of a complaint or an objection in accordance with Superior Court Probate Division Rule 407 is filed in this Court within 30 days from the date of first publication of this notice, the Court may take the action hereinafter set forth. In the absence of a will or proof satisfactory to the Court of due execution, enter an order determining that the decedent died intestate, appoint a supervised personal representative.

Legal Notices

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PROBATE DIVISION

2024 ADM 000915

Estate of Laverne Seegers Deceased

NOTICE OF STANDARD PROBATE (For estates of decedents dying on or after July 1, 1995)

Notice is hereby given that a petition has been filed in this Court by PennyM Loan Service, LLC, by Lallique Bjurstrom, for standard probate, including the appointment of one or more personal representatives. Unless a responsive pleading in the form of a complaint or an objection in accordance with Superior Court Probate Division Rule 407 is filed in this Court within 30 days from the date of first publication of this notice, the Court may take the action hereinafter set forth. In the absence of a will or proof satisfactory to the Court of due execution, enter an order determining that the decedent died intestate, appoint a supervised personal representative.

Date of first publication August 8,

Trustee Sales: Alexandria

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE 8212 DOCTOR CRAIK COURT ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22306

In execution of a Deed of Trust dated May 2, 2022, in the original amount of \$130,000.00, recorded as Instrument Number 2022037878.001 in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Fairfax County, Virginia, default having been made in the payment of the debt therein secured, and being instructed to do so by the party secured by the Deed of Trust ("Noteholder"), the Substitute Trustee, may act, on August 16, 2024, at 10:00 a.m., by the front main outside entrance to the building housing the Fairfax County Circuit Court, 4110 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax, Virginia 22030, offer for sale at public auction to the highest bidder the following real property ("Property") with improvements thereon:

Lot 5, Briary Farms Townhomes, as the same is duly dedicated, platted and recorded in Deed Book 4228 at Page 702 among the land records of Fairfax County, Virginia.

BEING the same property conveyed to the above trust by Deed dated June 28, 2019, from Gertraude Magdalene Schaefer, Trustee of the Gertraude Magdalene Schaefer Trust dated November 26, 2018, and recorded in Deed Book 25597 at Page 1319 in the aforesaid county land records.

Tax Map No. 1023-21-0005

To bid on the Property, a bidder's deposit of \$13,000.00 must be delivered by each bidder other than the Noteholder, or an affiliate of the Noteholder to the Substitute Trustee prior to the commencement of the sale. The deposit shall be by certified or cashier's check drawn on a financial institution acceptable to the Substitute Trustee and the Noteholder. The high bidder will be required to inspect the property in an amount necessary to equal ten percent (10%) of the highest winning bid within five (5) calendar days of the Sale Date. The deposit, without interest, will be applied to the purchase price at settlement or returned to the unsuccessful bidders, as applicable. The balance of the purchase price will be due by certified check or immediately available funds at settlement.

Settlement will be held on or before fifteen (15) days after sale; time being of the essence. Upon purchaser's default, the deposit shall be forfeited, and the property may be resold at the risk and costs of the defaulting purchaser. After any such default and forfeiture, the Property and any and all personal property applicable thereto may, at the discretion of the Substitute Trustee, be conveyed to the next highest bidder on the Property whose bid was acceptable to the Substitute Trustee.

The Property and all personal property applicable thereto shall be sold "AS IS" and "WITH ALL FAULTS." Neither the Substitute Trustee nor the Noteholder, nor their respective agents, successors, and assigns, make any representations or warranties with respect to the Property including, without limitation, representations or warranties as to the structural integrity, physical condition, construction, workmanship, materials, habitability, compliance with applicable zoning regulations, fitness for a particular purpose or merchantability of all or any part of the Property or personal property applicable thereto. The purchaser recognizes and agrees that any investigation, inspection, or inspection of the Property and personal property applicable thereto being sold is within the control of the owner or other parties in possession and their agents and not within the control of the Substitute Trustee, the Noteholder, or their agents, successors or assigns.

Conveyance of the Property shall be with special warranty and shall be subject to all existing housing, building, zoning and other code violations, if any, subject to all critical area and wetland violations, if any, subject to all environmental problems and violations which may exist on or with respect to the Property, if any, and shall be subject to all recorded and unrecorded liens, encumbrances, security interests, easements, rights-of-way, covenants, agreements, conditions, restrictions, leases, occupancy agreements and mechanics and materialmen's liens, to the extent any of the foregoing may lawfully apply to the Property being sold, or any part thereof, and take priority over the liens and security interests of the Deed of Trust.

Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the Property will be sold with representation or warranty as to the environmental condition of the Property or the compliance of the Property with federal, state, or local laws and regulations concerning the purchase or disposal of hazardous substances. Acceptance of the deed to the Property shall constitute a waiver of any claims against the Substitute Trustee, the Noteholder, and their respective agents, successors, and assigns, concerning the environmental condition of the Property.

Risk of loss or damage to the Property and personal property applicable thereto shall be borne by the purchaser from and after the strike down of the bid at the foreclosure sale. The purchaser shall pay all closing costs, including the preparation of the Substitute Trustee deed and all taxes and recording costs assessed thereon including, but not limited to, the grantor's tax, settlement fees, title examination charges and title insurance premiums. Real estate taxes prorated to the date of the foreclosure will be paid by the Substitute Trustee. Purchaser shall be responsible for all real estate taxes due on the Property from and after the date of the sale. The Substitute Trustee will not deliver possession of all or any part of the Property being sold.

The Substitute Trustee reserve the right to amend or supplement the terms of sale by verbal announcements during the sale, to modify the requirements for bidders' deposits, to reject any and all bids, to withdraw all or part of the Property from the sale prior to the commencement of bidding, to postpone the sale, and to conduct such other sales as the Substitute Trustee may determine in its discretion.

The form of Memorandum of Sale is available from the Substitute Trustee upon request and will be available at sale time.

Immediately upon delivery of the deed for the property by the Substitute Trustee, all duties, liabilities, and obligations of the Substitute Trustee, if any, to the purchaser with respect to the Property shall be extinguished.

REO Solutions, LLC

For information contact:

Nathaniel A. Ralstin 1775 Wiehle Ave, Suite 400 Reston, Virginia 20190 703-218-2103

(Advertise: August 1st and 8th, 2024) AD#85820

Trustee Sales: Prince William Co.

TRUSTEE'S SALE

2620 Ruffin Drive, Fredericksburg, VA 22408

THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

In execution of the Deed of Trust in the original principal amount of \$288,063.00 dated May 10, 2019 and recorded as Instrument No. 190007167, of the Spotsylvania County Land records, the appointed Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction in the front of the Circuit Court building for Spotsylvania County, 9107 Judicial Center Lane, Spotsylvania, Virginia 22553 on August 29, 2024 at 2:45 PM, the property described in said deed of trust, located at the above address and more particularly described as follows:

Lot 80, Section Two, RUFFIN'S POND, as more particularly shown and described on that certain plat of Section Two, made by Sullivan, Donahoe & Ingalls, dated April 5, 1995, recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Spotsylvania County, Virginia, in Spotsylvania County, Virginia, in Plat File 5, Pages 125-127.

The property and improvements will be sold in "as is" physical condition without warranty of any kind.

TERMS OF SALE: A non-refundable bidder's deposit of 10% of the sale price or 10% of the original principal amount of the subject Deed of Trust, whichever is lower, by cashier's or certified check, required at time of sale except for the party secured by the Deed of Trust. Risk of loss on purchaser from date and time of auction. Balance of the purchase price must be paid by cashier's check within 15 days from sale date. Except for Virginia Grantor's tax, all settlement costs and expenses are purchaser's responsibility. Taxes are pro-rated to the date of sale. Purchaser is responsible for obtaining possession of the property. If purchaser defaults, deposit may be forfeited and property resold at the risk and cost of the defaulting purchaser who shall be liable for any deficiency in the purchase price and all costs, expenses and attorney's fees of both sales. If Trustee does not convey title for any reason, purchaser's sole remedy is return of deposit without interest. This sale is subject to post-sale audit by the Substitute Trustee of the conduct of the auction itself as well as the status of the loan secured by the Deed of Trust, including, but not limited to, determining whether prior to sale a bankruptcy was filed, a forbearance, repayment or other agreement was entered into or the loan was reinstated or paid off; in any such event this sale shall be null and void and purchaser's sole remedy shall be return of deposit without interest. This communication is from a debt collector and is an attempt to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE: Lenox Title Trustee Services, LLC, c/o McMichael Taylor Gray, LLC, 3550 Engineering Drive, Suite 260, Peachtree Corners, GA 30092

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

Lenox Title Trustee Services, LLC, Substitute Trustee c/o Adrian G. Jacobs, Esq. McMichael Taylor Gray, LLC 3550 Engineering Drive, Suite 260 Peachtree Corners, GA 30092 Phone: 404.474.7149 Fax: 404.745.8121 MTF File No.: VA2023-02656

Run Dates: August 8th, 2024 August 15th, 2024

AD#85095

Trustee's Sale 2263 Wheel Cog Place, Woodbridge, Virginia 22192 (Parcel ID: 8393-00-9332)

Default having been made in the terms of a certain Deed of Trust dated August 20, 2021, in the original principal amount of \$66,000.00 and recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of the County of Prince William, Virginia in Instrument No. 202108310101356, the undersigned Substitute Trustee will sell at public auction on September 5, 2024, at 10:00 AM in front of the building housing the Prince William County Circuit Court, 9311 Lee Avenue, Manassas, VA 20110, the property designated as Lot 17, as shown on the recorded plat entitled "Subdivision and easement plat parcel D-6 Tackett's Mill", dated September 23, 1994, with a last version dated March 10, 1995, and recorded on April 24, 1995 in Deed Book 2234 at Page 860 among the land records of Prince William County, Virginia. Sale is subject to all prior liens, easements, restrictions, covenants, and conditions, if any, of record, or other matters which would be disclosed by an accurate survey or inspection of the premises. TERMS: CASH. A deposit of \$7,000.00 or 10% of the sale price, whichever is lower, will be required of the successful bidder at time of sale. Prior to the sale, interested bidders will be required to register with and must present a bid deposit which may be held during the sale by the trustee. The bid deposit must be certified funds and/or cash, but no more than \$9,900.00 of cash will be accepted. The successful bidder's deposit will be retained at the sale and applied to the sale price. If held by the trustee, all other bid deposits will be returned to the unsuccessful bidders. Settlement is to be made within 15 calendar days. The successful bidder will be responsible for obtaining possession of the property, and for all costs and fees related to recording the Trustee's Deed, including the grantors tax. The successful bidder will be required to execute a Memorandum of Trustee's Sale, available for review on the Foreclosure Sales page of www.glasserlaw.com, outlining additional terms of sale and settlement. A Trustee's Deed will be prepared by Trustee's attorney at high bidder's expense. This is a communication from a debt collector, Glasser and Glasser, P.L.L.C. on behalf of Atlantic Trustee Services, L.L.C., and/or REO Solutions, LLC, and/or NPFD-VA LLC, Substitute Trustees, Crown Center Building, Suite 600, 580 East Main Street, Norfolk, VA 23510, File No. 236622-01, Tel: (757) 321-6465, between 10:00 a.m. & 12:00 noon only.

Run Dates: August 1st, 2024 August 8th, 2024

AD#85302

Trustee Sales: Prince William Co.

Trustee's Sale 12836 Mill Race Court, Manassas, Virginia 20112 (Parcel ID: 7893-71-2253)

Default having been made in the terms of a certain Deed of Trust dated August 27, 2019, in the original principal amount of \$160,000.00 and recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of the County of Prince William, Virginia in Instrument No. 201910030072526, the undersigned Substitute Trustee will sell at public auction on September 5, 2024, at 10:00 AM in front of the building housing the Prince William County Circuit Court, 9311 Lee Avenue, Manassas, VA 20110, the property designated as Lot 31, Millbrooke, as the same appears duly dedicated, platted and recorded in deed book 2190, at page 1415, among the land records of Prince William County, Virginia. Sale is subject to all prior liens, easements, restrictions, covenants, and conditions, if any, of record, or other matters which would be disclosed by an accurate survey or inspection of the premises. TERMS: CASH. A deposit of \$16,000.00 or 10% of the sale price, whichever is lower, will be required of the successful bidder at time of sale. Prior to the sale, interested bidders will be required to register with and must present a bid deposit which may be held during the sale by the trustee. The bid deposit must be certified funds and/or cash, but no more than \$9,900.00 of cash will be accepted. The successful bidder's deposit will be retained at the sale and applied to the sale price. If held by the trustee, all other bid deposits will be returned to the unsuccessful bidders. Settlement is to be made within 15 calendar days. The successful bidder will be responsible for obtaining possession of the property, and for all costs and fees related to recording the Trustee's Deed, including the grantors tax. The successful bidder will be required to execute a Memorandum of Trustee's Sale, available for review on the Foreclosure Sales page of www.glasserlaw.com, outlining additional terms of sale and settlement. A Trustee's Deed will be prepared by Trustee's attorney at high bidder's expense. This is a communication from a debt collector, Glasser and Glasser, P.L.L.C. on behalf of Atlantic Trustee Services, L.L.C., and/or REO Solutions, LLC, and/or NPFD-VA LLC, Substitute Trustees, Crown Center Building, Suite 600, 580 East Main Street, Norfolk, VA 23510, File No. 236597-01, Tel: (757) 321-6465, between 10:00 a.m. & 12:00 noon only.

Run Dates: July 25th, 2024 August 1st, 2024 August 8th, 2024

AD#85201

Order Of Pub - Domestic: Fairfax Co.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316

FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT

Case No.: J1464479-01-00

Commonwealth of Virginia, in re ABARCA, DARIELLA VICTORIA ABARCA, BASILIO & VALLADARES FLORES BLANCA v. CRUZ, OSCAR M & ABARCA VALLADARES, ANA

The object of this suit is to: DETERMINE CUSTODY OF DARIELLA VICTORIA ABARCA

It is ORDERED that the defendant CRUZ, OSCAR M & ABARCA VALLADARES appear at the above-named court and protect his or her interests on or before October 17, 2024 9:10 AM 3P.

DATE: July 22, 2024

JLO CLERK

August 1,8,15 & 22, 2024 AD#85861

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316

FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT

Case No.: J1464145-01-00-02

Commonwealth of Virginia, in re HENRIQUEZ ABREGO, FATIMA J ABREGO RODRIGUEZ, ADITH D V. HENRIQUEZ MIGUEL A

The object of this suit is to: DETERMINE CUSTODY OF THE MINOR, FATIMA HENRIQUEZ ABREGO AND SJS FINDINGS.

It is ORDERED that the defendant HENRIQUEZ HENRIQUEZ, MIGUEL A appear at the above-named court and protect his or her interests on or before October 22, 2024 9:10 AM 3A.

DATE: July 17, 2024

JLO CLERK

August 1, 8,15 & 22, 2024 AD#85830

VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF FAIRFAX COUNTY

Luis Montes Flores Plaintiff vs. CL-2024-0181 Ruth Chioche Chambi DEFENDANT

ORDER OF PUBLICATION The reason for this cause is a divorce a vinculo matrimonii. An affidavit having been made and filed showing that the defendant named in the above-entitled cause is not to be served, and that diligence has been used without effect to ascertain the location of the Defendant is as follows:

TESTE: CHRISTOPHER J. FALCON, CLERK BY: Kaleigh Lawson DEPUTY CLERK

Written Answer may be filed in lieu of Court appearance

Reply should be received by September 19, 2024

Bobby Altman Signature of Complainant or Counsel for Complainant 7015 Old Keene Mill Road Suite 204 Springfield, VA 22192 (703) 569-0400

August 8,15,22 & 29, 2024 AD#86021

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316

FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT

Case No.: J1461364-03-00-04

Commonwealth of Virginia, in re POSAS BONILLA, VALERIA N v. POSAS AYALA, DILCIA L

The object of this suit is to: DETERMINE CUSTODY AND SJS FINDINGS FOR VALERIA N POSAS BONILLA

It is ORDERED that the defendant POSAS MATUTE, JUAN C appear at the above-named court and protect his or her interests on or before October 21, 2024 9:10 AM 3C.

DATE: July 22, 2024

JLO CLERK

August 1,8,15 & 22, 2024 AD#85818

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316

FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT

Case No.: J1461364-03-00-04

Commonwealth of Virginia, in re POSAS BONILLA, VALERIA N v. POSAS AYALA, DILCIA L

The object of this suit is to: DETERMINE CUSTODY AND SJS FINDINGS FOR VALERIA N POSAS BONILLA

It is ORDERED that the defendant POSAS MATUTE, JUAN C appear at the above-named court and protect his or her interests on or before October 21, 2024 9:10 AM 3B.

DATE: July 22, 2024

JLO CLERK

August 1,8,15 & 22, 2024 AD#85818

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316

FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT

Case No.: J1461364-03-00-04

Commonwealth of Virginia, in re POSAS BONILLA, VALERIA N v. POSAS AYALA, DILCIA L

The object of this suit is to: DETERMINE CUSTODY AND SJS FINDINGS FOR VALERIA N POSAS BONILLA

It is ORDERED that the defendant POSAS MATUTE, JUAN C appear at the above-named court and protect his or her interests on or before October 21, 2024 9:10 AM 3B.

DATE: July 22, 2024

JLO CLERK

August 1,8,15 & 22, 2024 AD#85818

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316

FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT

Case No.: J1461364-03-00-04

Commonwealth of Virginia, in re POSAS BONILLA, VALERIA N v. POSAS AYALA, DILCIA L

The object of this suit is to: DETERMINE CUSTODY AND SJS FINDINGS FOR VALERIA N POSAS BONILLA

It is ORDERED that the defendant POSAS MATUTE, JUAN C appear at the above-named court and protect his or her interests on or before October 21, 2024 9:10 AM 3B.

DATE: July 22, 2024

JLO CLERK

August 1,8,15 & 22, 2024 AD#85818

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316

FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT

Case No.: J1461364-03-00-04

Commonwealth of Virginia, in re POSAS BONILLA, VALERIA N v. POSAS AYALA, DILCIA L

The object of this suit is to: DETERMINE CUSTODY AND SJS FINDINGS FOR VALERIA N POSAS BONILLA

It is ORDERED that the defendant POSAS MATUTE, JUAN C appear at the above-named court and protect his or her interests on or before October 21, 2024 9:10 AM 3B.

DATE: July 22, 2024

JLO CLERK

August 1,8,15 & 22, 2024 AD#85818

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316

FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT

Case No.: J1461364-03-00-04

Commonwealth of Virginia, in re POSAS BONILLA, VALERIA N v. POSAS AYALA, DILCIA L

The object of this suit is to: DETERMINE CUSTODY AND SJS FINDINGS FOR VALERIA N POSAS BONILLA

It is ORDERED that the defendant POSAS MATUTE, JUAN C appear at the above-named court and protect his or her interests on or before October 21, 2024 9:10 AM 3B.

DATE: July 22, 2024

JLO CLERK

August 1,8,15 & 22, 2024 AD#85818

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316

FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT

Case No.: J1461364-03-00-04

Commonwealth of Virginia, in re POSAS BONILLA, VALERIA N v. POSAS AYALA, DILCIA L

The object of this suit is to: DETERMINE CUSTODY AND SJS FINDINGS FOR VALERIA N POSAS BONILLA

It is ORDERED that the defendant POSAS MATUTE, JUAN C appear at the above-named court and protect his or her interests on or before October 21, 2024 9:10 AM 3B.

DATE: July 22, 2024

JLO CLERK

August 1,8,15 & 22, 2024 AD#85818

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316

FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT

Case No.: J1461364-03-00-04

Commonwealth of Virginia, in re POSAS BONILLA, VALERIA N v. POSAS AYALA, DILCIA L

The object of this suit is to: DETERMINE CUSTODY AND SJS FINDINGS FOR VALERIA N POSAS BONILLA

It is ORDERED that the defendant POSAS MATUTE, JUAN C appear at the above-named court and protect his or her interests on or before October 21, 2024 9:10 AM 3B.

DATE: July 22, 2024

JLO CLERK

August 1,8,15 & 22, 2024 AD#85818

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316

FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT

Case No.: J1461364-03-00-04

Commonwealth of Virginia, in re POSAS BONILLA, VALERIA N v. POSAS AYALA, DILCIA L

The object of this suit is to: DETERMINE CUSTODY AND SJS FINDINGS FOR VALERIA N POSAS BONILLA

It is ORDERED that the defendant POSAS MATUTE, JUAN C appear at the above-named court and protect his or her interests on or before October 21, 2024 9:10 AM 3B.

DATE: July 22, 2024

JLO CLERK

August 1,8,15 & 22, 2024 AD#85818

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316

FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT

Case No.: J1461364-03-00-04

Commonwealth of Virginia, in re POSAS BONILLA, VALERIA N v. POSAS AYALA, DILCIA L

The object of this suit is to: DETERMINE CUSTODY AND SJS FINDINGS FOR VALERIA N POSAS BONILLA

It is ORDERED that the defendant POSAS MATUTE, JUAN C appear at the above-named court and protect his or her interests on or before October 21, 2024 9:10 AM 3B.

DATE: July 22, 2024

JLO CLERK

August 1,8,15 & 22, 2024 AD#85818

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316

FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT

Case No.: J1461364-03-00-04

Commonwealth of Virginia, in re POSAS BONILLA, VALERIA N v. POSAS AYALA, DILCIA L

Order Of Pub - Domestic: Fairfax Co.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316 FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT Case No.: J146452-01-00 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re DIEZ FLORES, DEIVY ARIEL DIAZ RIVERA, ELMER JESUS V. FLORES GONZALEZ, MARTINA The object of this suit is to: CUSTODY OF DEIVY ARIEL DIAZ FLORES It is ORDERED that the defendant FLORES GONZALEZ, MARTINA appear at the above-named court and protect his or her interests on or before September 24, 2024 2:10 PM 3B DATE: July 2, 2024 JLO CLERK August 1,8,15 & 22, 2024 AD#85372

Order Of Pub - Domestic: Fairfax Co.

VIRGINIA: IN THE FAIRFAX CIRCUIT COURT ANIL BHADUR GC COMPLAINANT VS. Case #: CL-2024-09346 NISHA KARKI DEFENDANT ORDER OF PUBLICATION The reason for this cause is to obtain a divorce. An affidavit having been made and filed showing that the Defendant in the above-entitled cause is cannot be found, and that diligence has been used without effect to ascertain the location of the party to be served; and the last known mailing address of the Defendant is as follows: NISHA KARKI 114 PICTURE ST SE, APT 297 Vienna, VA 22180 Upon consideration, this Order of Publication is granted, and it is ORDERED that the above-named Defendant shall appear here on or before 29th day of August, 2024 after proper publication of this Order, to protect his/her interest in this cause. Entered: July 2, 2024

Order Of Pub - Domestic: Fairfax Co.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316 FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT Case No.: 2024-09538 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re LEON HARRIS Plaintiff vs. Mary Wismer Harris Defendant The object of this suit is to: Obtain a Divorce A VINCULO MATRIMONII It is ORDERED that Mary Wismer Harris appear at the above-named court and protect his or her interests on or before September 12, 2024. Written Answer may be filed in lieu of Court appearance Reply should be received by September 12, 2024 CHRISTOPHER J. FALCON, CLERK Kaleigh Lawson DEPUTY CLERK August 1,8,15 & 22, 2024 AD#85711

Order Of Pub - Domestic: Fairfax Co.

VIRGINIA: FAIRFAX CIRCUIT COURT IN RE: ADOPTION OF MINOR CHILD Peyton Grace Hollis AD-2024-077 ORDER OF PUBLICATION The reason for this cause is to obtain an adoption. An affidavit having been made and filed showing that the Natural Parent in the above-entitled cause is cannot be found, and that diligence has been used without effect to ascertain the location of the party to be served; and the last known mailing address of the Natural Father/Mother is as follows: Name: Shaella McClamb Address: 129 Henley Circle Smithfield, NC 27577 Upon consideration, this Order of Publication is granted, and it is ORDERED that the above-named Natural Parent shall appear here on or before 12th day of September 2024 after proper publication of this Order, to protect his/her interest in this cause. Entered: July 2, 2024

Order Of Pub - Domestic: Fairfax Co.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316 FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT Case No.: J1464228-01-00 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re JIMENEZ, KHLOE BELLA M.F. DALES, DEBORAH JIMENEZ MUNOZ, JOSE The object of this suit is to: CUSTODY OF KHLOE BELLA JIMENEZ It is ORDERED that the defendant JIMENEZ MUNOZ, JOSE appear at the above-named court and protect his or her interests on or before September 17, 2024 1:30 PM 3B DATE: July 24, 2024 August 1,8,15 & 22, 2024 AD#8566

Order Of Pub - Domestic: Fairfax Co.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316 FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT Case No.: J1463806-02-00 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re ESCOBAR ROMERO, ELVIN ESCOBAR ROMERO, JOSEFINA C V. HERNANDEZ, PORFIRIO The object of this suit is to: FINDINGS TO REFER TO SIS ELVIN A ESCOBAR ROMERO It is ORDERED that the defendant HERNANDEZ, PORFIRIO appear at the above-named court and protect his or her interests on or before September 23, 2024 1:30 PM 3B DATE: July 10, 2024 July 18 & 25, 2024 August 1 & 8, 2024 AD#85488

Order Of Pub - Domestic: Fairfax Co.

VIRGINIA: IN THE FAIRFAX CIRCUIT COURT MARY KOROMA COMPLAINANT VS. Case #: CL-2024-0007264 IDRISA KANU DEFENDANT ORDER OF PUBLICATION The reason for this cause is to obtain a divorce. An affidavit having been made and filed showing that the Defendant in the above-entitled cause is cannot be found, and that diligence has been used without effect to ascertain the location of the party to be served; and the last known mailing address of the Defendant is as follows: IDRISA KANU 13621 Legacy Circle, Apartment 01 Herndon, VA 22061 Upon consideration, this Order of Publication is granted, and it is ORDERED that the above-named Defendant shall appear here on or before 29th day of August, 2024 after proper publication of this Order, to protect his/her interest in this cause. Entered: July 2, 2024

Order Of Pub - Domestic: Fairfax Co.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316 FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT Case No.: 2024-09522 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re VADIMIR RZAEV Plaintiff vs. Vladimir Rzaev Defendant The object of this suit is to: Obtain a Divorce A VINCULO MATRIMONII It is ORDERED that Vladimir Rzaev appear at the above-named court and protect his or her interests on or before September 12, 2024. Written Answer may be filed in lieu of Court appearance Reply should be received by September 12, 2024 CHRISTOPHER J. FALCON, CLERK Kaleigh Lawson DEPUTY CLERK August 1,8,15 & 22, 2024 AD#85821

Order Of Pub - Domestic: Fairfax Co.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316 FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT Case No.: J1464234-01-01 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re LOPEZ PEREZ, SULEY The object of this suit is to: TO HOLD A FOSTER CARE REVIEW HEARING PURSUANT TO VA. CODE 16.1-282 AND DETERMINE THE CUSTODY OF THE CHILD. It is ORDERED that NOE LOPEZ LOPEZ appear at the above-named court and protect his or her interests on or before November 12, 2024 9:00 AM 3C. DATE: July 15, 2024 Sene Nigatu CLERK August 1,8,15 & 22, 2024 AD#85821

Order Of Pub - Domestic: Fairfax Co.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316 FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT Case No.: J1463809-01-00,02-00 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re ALVAREZ REYES, GISELLE A V. BRAYAN JOSE ALVAREZ ABARCA The object of this suit is to: SOLE LEGAL CUSTODY OF GISELLE ALEJANDRA ALVAREZ REYES. It is ORDERED that B R A Y A N J O S E A L V A R E Z A B A R C A appear at the above-named court and protect his or her interests on or before August 8, 2024 10:20 AM. DATE: July 26, 2024 GPC CLERK August 8,15,22 & 29, 2024 AD#86116

Order Of Pub - Domestic: Fairfax Co.

VIRGINIA: IN THE FAIRFAX CIRCUIT COURT CARLOS ALEXANDER CASTELLON GALEAS COMPLAINANT VS. Case #: CL-2024-9387 SARA YAMILETH GONZALEZ DEFENDANT ORDER OF PUBLICATION The reason for this cause is to obtain a divorce. An affidavit having been made and filed showing that the Defendant in the above-entitled cause is OTHER: No longer at residence and has not made new address known to Plaintiff, and the last known mailing address of the Defendant is as follows: SARA YAMILETH GONZALEZ 6825 Keyson Dr Alexandria, VA 22307 Upon consideration, this Order of Publication is granted, and it is ORDERED that the above-named Defendant shall appear here on or before 12th day of September, 2024 after proper publication of this Order, to protect his/her interest in this cause. Entered: July 16, 2024

Order Of Pub - Domestic: Fairfax Co.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316 FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT Case No.: J1464282-03-00 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re ABILA GOMEZ, ANGIE The object of this suit is to: TO HOLD A PERMANENCY PLANNING HEARING PURSUANT TO VA. CODE 16.1-282.1, TO TERMINATE RESIDUAL PARENTAL RIGHTS 16.1-283 AND DETERMINE THE CUSTODY OF THE CHILD. It is ORDERED that W I L L I A M A B I L A F I G U E R O A appear at the above-named Court and protect his or her interests on or before January 13, 2025 1:30 PM 3B. DATE: July 15, 2024 Sene Nigatu CLERK August 1,8,15 & 22, 2024 AD#85822

Order Of Pub - Domestic: Fairfax Co.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316 FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT Case No.: J1463251-01-00,02-00 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re MEJIA HENRIQUEZ, NOHELY A V. CARLOS NOE MEJIA FRANCO The object of this suit is to: LEGAL CUSTODY OF NOHELY ALEJANDRO MEJIA HENRIQUEZ It is ORDERED that CARLOS NOE MEJIA FRANCO appear at the above-named court and protect his or her interests on or before September 16, 2024 9:40 AM 3B. DATE: July 25, 2024 August 1,8 & 15, 2024 AD#85432

Order Of Pub - Domestic: Fairfax Co.

VIRGINIA: IN THE FAIRFAX CIRCUIT COURT Syed Alamdar Hossain COMPLAINANT VS. Case #: CL-2024-0003710 Syeda Zainab Mujahid DEFENDANT ORDER OF PUBLICATION The reason for this cause is to obtain a divorce. An affidavit having been made and filed showing that the Defendant in the above-entitled cause is cannot be found, and that diligence has been used without effect to ascertain the location of the party to be served; and the last known mailing address of the Defendant is as follows: Joshua Jerome Meadows 638 Stonemill Manor Littleton, CO 80120 Upon consideration, this Order of Publication is granted, and it is ORDERED that the above-named Defendant shall appear here on or before 12th day of September, 2024 after proper publication of this Order, to protect his/her interest in this cause. Entered: July 16, 2024

Order Of Pub - Domestic: Fairfax Co.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316 FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT Case No.: J1464533-01-00 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re CHEZEV SERRANO, KENDALL D SERRANO PORTILLO, ANA V. CHEZEV OLIVAR, MICHAEL The object of this suit is to: TO DETERMINE THE CUSTODY OF AND TO MAKE SPECIAL FINDINGS FOR KENDALL D CHEZEV SERRANO It is ORDERED that the defendant CHEZEV OLIVAR, MICHAEL appear at the above-named court and protect his or her interests on or before September 26, 2024 2:30 PM 3E. DATE: July 10, 2024 July 18 & 25, 2024 August 1 & 8, 2024 AD#85422

Order Of Pub - Domestic: Fairfax Co.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316 FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT Case No.: 2024-09533 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re ALIYAH M. LONG Plaintiff vs. Stedman D. Whitney Defendant The object of this suit is to: Obtain a Divorce A VINCULO MATRIMONII It is ORDERED that Stedman D. Whitney appear at the above-named court and protect his or her interests on or before September 12, 2024. Written Answer may be filed in lieu of Court appearance Reply should be received by September 12, 2024 CHRISTOPHER J. FALCON, CLERK Kaleigh Lawson DEPUTY CLERK August 8,15,22 & 29, 2024 AD#86035

Order Of Pub - Domestic: Fairfax Co.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316 FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT Case No.: J1464482-01-00,02-00 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re PEREZ REYNOLDS, ROSARIO D V. MARQUEZ, DANIEL The object of this suit is to: TO DETERMINE CUSTODY BETWEEN THE PARTIES REGARDING MINOR AND ENTER SPECIAL FINDINGS FOR JUVENILE FINDINGS It is ORDERED that the defendant MARQUEZ, DANIEL appear at the above-named court and protect his or her interests on or before September 5, 2024 3:40 PM 3B. DATE: July 10, 2024 JLO CLERK August 1,8 & 15, 2024 AD#85559

Order Of Pub - Domestic: Fairfax Co.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316 FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT Case No.: J1464416-01-00,02-00 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re MORADEL GALINDO, JOSE EMANUEL GALINDO HELENDEZ, ERMELINDA V. VELASQUEZ MORADEL, DENIS The object of this suit is to: DETERMINE CUSTODY OF THE MINOR JOSE EMANUEL MORADEL GALINDO AND SIJS FINDINGS. It is ORDERED that the defendant VELASQUEZ MORADEL, DENIS appear at the above-named court and protect his or her interests on or before October 22, 2024 9:20 AM 3A. DATE: July 17, 2024 JLO CLERK August 1, 8,15 & 22, 2024 AD#85929

Order Of Pub - Domestic: Fairfax Co.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316 FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT Case No.: J1463784-01-00,02-00 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re FORTIN BARNICA, MANUEL DE J V. FORTIN BARNICA, MANUEL DE J The object of this suit is to: DETERMINE CUSTODY OF MINOR BETWEEN THE PARTIES AND ENTER SPECIAL FINDINGS FOR STATUS FINDINGS FOR HARRY ADELSON FORTIN MENDOZA. It is ORDERED that FORTIN BARNICA, MANUEL DE J appear at the above-named court and protect his or her interests on or before September 13, 2004 1:50 PM 3G. DATE: July 9, 2024 JLO CLERK August 1,8 & 25, 2024 AD#85487

Order Of Pub - Domestic: Fairfax Co.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316 FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT Case No.: J1464041-01-00,02-00 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re SANDOVAL MEZA, MONICA V. MARTINEZ, JULIO The object of this suit is to: DETERMINE CUSTODY OF THE MINOR AND SIJS FINDINGS FOR ALISSON SANDOVAL MEZA It is ORDERED that the defendant MARTINEZ, JULIO appear at the above-named court and protect his or her interests on or before September 25, 2024 1:50 PM 3E. DATE: July 1, 2024 JLO CLERK August 1,8,15 & 22, 2024 AD#85954

Order Of Pub - Domestic: Fairfax Co.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316 FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT Case No.: J1464146-01-00,02-00 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re MORADEL GALINDO, JOSE EMANUEL GALINDO HELENDEZ, ERMELINDA V. VELASQUEZ MORADEL, DENIS The object of this suit is to: DETERMINE CUSTODY OF THE MINOR JOSE EMANUEL MORADEL GALINDO AND SIJS FINDINGS. It is ORDERED that the defendant VELASQUEZ MORADEL, DENIS appear at the above-named court and protect his or her interests on or before October 22, 2024 9:20 AM 3A. DATE: July 17, 2024 JLO CLERK August 1, 8,15 & 22, 2024 AD#85929

Order Of Pub - Domestic: Fairfax Co.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316 FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT Case No.: J1463784-01-00,02-00 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re FORTIN BARNICA, MANUEL DE J V. FORTIN BARNICA, MANUEL DE J The object of this suit is to: DETERMINE CUSTODY OF MINOR BETWEEN THE PARTIES AND ENTER SPECIAL FINDINGS FOR STATUS FINDINGS FOR HARRY ADELSON FORTIN MENDOZA. It is ORDERED that FORTIN BARNICA, MANUEL DE J appear at the above-named court and protect his or her interests on or before September 13, 2004 1:50 PM 3G. DATE: July 9, 2024 JLO CLERK August 1,8 & 25, 2024 AD#85487

Order Of Pub - Domestic: Fairfax Co.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316 FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT Case No.: J1464041-01-00,02-00 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re SANDOVAL MEZA, MONICA V. MARTINEZ, JULIO The object of this suit is to: DETERMINE CUSTODY OF THE MINOR AND SIJS FINDINGS FOR ALISSON SANDOVAL MEZA It is ORDERED that the defendant MARTINEZ, JULIO appear at the above-named court and protect his or her interests on or before September 25, 2024 1:50 PM 3E. DATE: July 1, 2024 JLO CLERK August 1,8,15 & 22, 2024 AD#85954

Order Of Pub - Domestic: Fairfax Co.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316 FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT Case No.: J1464041-01-00,02-00 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re SANDOVAL MEZA, MONICA V. MARTINEZ, JULIO The object of this suit is to: DETERMINE CUSTODY OF THE MINOR AND SIJS FINDINGS FOR ALISSON SANDOVAL MEZA It is ORDERED that the defendant MARTINEZ, JULIO appear at the above-named court and protect his or her interests on or before September 25, 2024 1:50 PM 3E. DATE: July 1, 2024 JLO CLERK August 1,8,15 & 22, 2024 AD#85954

Order Of Pub - Domestic: Fairfax Co.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316 FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT Case No.: J1464310-01-00,02-00 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re GADELKERIM, KAREMA RAFAAT E.M. GADELKERIM, JANA RAFAAT BURKHAN, HAYAT V. GADELKERIM, RAAFAT The object of this suit is to: CHILD CUSTODY OF KAREMA RAFAAT E.M. GADELKERIM & JANA RAFAAT GADELKERIM It is ORDERED that the defendant GADELKERIM, RAAFAAT appear at the above-named court and protect his or her interests on or before October 17, 2024 11:50 AM 3H. DATE: July 22, 2024 JLO CLERK August 1,8,15 & 22, 2024 AD#85860

Order Of Pub - Domestic: Fairfax Co.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316 FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT Case No.: J1464482-01-00,02-00 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re PEREZ REYNOLDS, ROSARIO D V. MARQUEZ, DANIEL The object of this suit is to: TO DETERMINE CUSTODY BETWEEN THE PARTIES REGARDING MINOR AND ENTER SPECIAL FINDINGS FOR JUVENILE FINDINGS It is ORDERED that the defendant MARQUEZ, DANIEL appear at the above-named court and protect his or her interests on or before September 5, 2024 3:40 PM 3B. DATE: July 10, 2024 JLO CLERK August 1,8 & 15, 2024 AD#85559

Order Of Pub - Domestic: Fairfax Co.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316 FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT Case No.: J1464041-01-00,02-00 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re SANDOVAL MEZA, MONICA V. MARTINEZ, JULIO The object of this suit is to: DETERMINE CUSTODY OF THE MINOR AND SIJS FINDINGS FOR ALISSON SANDOVAL MEZA It is ORDERED that the defendant MARTINEZ, JULIO appear at the above-named court and protect his or her interests on or before September 25, 2024 1:50 PM 3E. DATE: July 1, 2024 JLO CLERK August 1,8,15 & 22, 2024 AD#85954

Order Of Pub - Domestic: Fairfax Co.

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Order Of Pub - Domestic: Fairfax Co.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316 FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT Case No.: J1464099-01-00 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re GARCIA GARCIA, KIMBERLY JOHANA GARCIA PINEDA, MARIA E V. GARCIA MARTINEZ, DOMINGO The object of this suit is to: TO HOLD CUSTODY OF KIMBERLY JOHANA GARCIA GARCIA AND FACTUAL FINDINGS FOR IMMIGRANT JUVENILE STATUS. It is ORDERED that the defendant GARCIA MARTINEZ, DOMINGO appear at the above-named court and protect his or her interests on or before November 25, 2024 1:30 PM 3A. DATE: July 16, 2024 JLO CLERK August 1,8,15 & 22, 2024 AD#85925

Order Of Pub - Domestic: Fairfax Co.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316 FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT Case No.: J1463556-01-00 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re FRANCO TORREZ, EMMA WILCOXEN, ESILMIZA JEANNETTE V. FRANCO HERRERA, TITO The object of this suit is to: SHARED CUSTODY OF EMMA FRANCO TORREZ It is ORDERED that the defendant FRANCO HERRERA, TITO appear at the above-named court and protect his or her interests on or before September 26, 2024 1:50 PM 3E. DATE: July 1, 2024 JLO CLERK August 1,8,15 & 22, 2024 AD#85933

Order Of Pub - Domestic: Fairfax Co.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316 FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT Case No.: J1464041-01-00,02-00 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re SANDOVAL MEZA, MONICA V. MARTINEZ, JULIO The object of this suit is to: DETERMINE CUSTODY OF THE MINOR AND SIJS FINDINGS FOR ALISSON SANDOVAL MEZA It is ORDERED that the defendant MARTINEZ, JULIO appear at the above-named court and protect his or her interests on or before September 25, 2024 1:50 PM 3E. DATE: July 1, 2024 JLO CLERK August 1,8 & 25, 2024 AD#85954

Order Of Pub - Domestic: Fairfax Co.

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4			3								
	5			4		3	6				
9		7	8		1			2	5		
1						6				3	
	9		7	2	4			8			
7		5									4
3	1		4		8	7					2
	4	2		7						3	
											6

JANRIC CLASSIC SUDOKU

Rating: Bronze

Fill in the blank cells using numbers 1 to 9. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and 3x3 block. Use logic and the process of elimination to solve the puzzle. The difficulty level ranges from Bronze (easiest) to Silver to Gold (hardest).

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ANSWERS TO PREVIOUS PUZZLES:

3	8	5	4	1	9	6	7	2	MAMA	ALSO	ASPIC
9	1	2	8	6	7	5	3	4	ATON	FELL	LIETO
6	7	4	2	3	5	9	1	8	SONG	RAID	ANTSY
5	9	7	6	4	8	1	2	3	ONTO	POTHINGS	
2	4	1	5	7	3	8	6	9	NIEHRU	HAS	TBA
8	6	3	9	2	1	4	5	7	ABOVE	THEFOLD	
7	5	9	3	8	6	2	4	1	BAA	WAR	TIRED
1	2	8	7	5	4	3	9	6	LIPSYN	PLATEAU	
4	3	6	1	9	2	7	8	5	AMPLE	VEE	STP
									BELOW	AVERAGE	
									SEA	PIN	EXACT
									UNDER	THETABLE	
									RADII	GUAC	LOON
									ODETO	ORZO	TUNA
									WADER	SEEN	STEM

NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Mane Thing, At Last

ACROSS

- 1 Science class model
- 5 Infamy
- 10 Concert keepsake
- 14 Call from a curb
- 15 Without delay, say
- 16 Corleone's creator
- 17 Symbolic warning
- 18 Midwest hub
- 19 Mid-March exclamation opener
- 20 Many tall timepieces
- 23 Hardly rosy
- 24 Hypotheticals
- 25 Send back, per a judge
- 28 X-Files agent
- 30 Astronaut Jernison
- 33 It's held for questioning
- 34 Moby-Dick ship co-owner
- 35 Thumbs-ups
- 36 Stone, Streep and Swank
- 40 Stroller rider
- 41 Cinematic swordsman
- 42 Man, e.g.
- 43 Person who might bug you
- 44 Minute, to a 40-Across
- 45 Pilgrim's Progress author
- 47 Close (sports) squeaker
- 48 Office fixture
- 49 Spot for Spielberg
- 56 Toastmaster's intro, often
- 57 Go at it

DOWN

- 1 Surmounting
- 2 Easy to handle
- 3 The yoke's on them
- 4 Psych-out tactic
- 5 Apathetic
- 6 Apathetic exclamation
- 7 A first mate
- 8 Artist Chagall
- 9 Pencil in a purse
- 10 Draftsperson's data
- 11 "Young" reformer
- 12 Commando movie arms
- 13 Half a sweet treat
- 21 Bouquet holder
- 22 Not a kid anymore
- 25 Kicks back
- 26 Many a security guard
- 27 Back to the Future teen
- 28 Beef about
- 29 Viola's range
- 30 What many forest floors are
- 31 Cub Scout leader
- 32 City north of Cologne
- 34 Comb creation
- 37 Cybermag
- 38 Piece of stationery
- 39 Metaphor for a financial drain
- 45 Embattles
- 46 It's near the L.A. Coliseum
- 47 Hoover competitor
- 48 Stonehenge worshiper
- 49 "Inside" info
- 50 Seller of cabinet kits
- 51 Nursery purchase
- 52 Look at unsuitably
- 53 Tune for a tenor
- 54 Sorbet cousins
- 55 Post in ALL CAPS, perhaps
- 56 Piece of work

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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.

TNNHI

ENVTE

SBDARU

GRACIL

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

RUBES/Leigh Rubin

"They always taste better at the ballpark."

IN THE BLEACHERS/Steve Moore

B.C./Mastroianni & Hart

LOLA/Todd Clark

BOUND & GAGGED/Dana Summers

ADAM @ HOME/Rob Harrell

THE BUCKETS/Greg Cravens

ROSE IS ROSE/Pat Brady & Don Wimmer

DOGS OF C-KENNEL/Mick & Mason Mastroianni

HERB & JAMAAL/Stephen Bentley

CARPE DIEM/Niklas Eriksson

BROOM-HILDA/Russell Myers

DICK TRACY/Shelley Pleger & 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

MOVIES

A horror flick well worth the watch

By LINDSEY BAHR
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Let's get one thing out of the way first: I did not entirely understand everything that happens in "Cuckoo," a new indie horror in theaters Friday.

This could be more of a me problem than with the storytelling, but there are a lot of strange things happening at this particular Alpine resort. It's run by a bespectacled German hotelier named Herr Konig, played with an off-kilter menace by Dan Stevens.

Some of the occurrences are underexplained, others underexplored. Herr Konig seems particularly worried about things that happen after dark, but not so much about guests wandering into the reception and general store in a wobbly stupor and vomit. Are they drunk? Sick? Should someone help them? All we get is: "It happens." The hospital, too, is eerily empty.

Sonic vibrations often ripple through the land, causing scenes to repeat until reaching a violent crescendo. And no one seems to listen to or care about anything 17-year-old Gretchen (Hunter Schafer) has to say, no matter how banged up she gets. The quick escalation of her injuries, and the widening disinterest of her father, approaches comedy.

Ambiguity can be wonderful for mystery and worldbuilding; It can also be frustrating. And more often than not, detailed



Hunter Schafer plays 17-year-old Gretchen in the indie horror movie about the strange happenings at an Alpine resort in "Cuckoo." Her escalating injuries and disinterest of her father approach comedy.

'Cuckoo' a stylish nightmare, with wonderfully sinister Stevens

explanations just make everything more pathetic. "Cuckoo" dips into all of the above.

Even so, it is undeniably fascinating, original and even occasionally fun, in a very twisted and deranged way in which laughter is your involuntary response to something horrifying. In her captivating lead performance, Ms. Schafer really goes through it, both physically and emotionally.

It also features Mr. Stevens sporting tiny, rimless glasses with sinisterly scandi-cool monochrome outfits, and a screaming ghoul with Hitchcockian glamour in a hooded trench and white-framed oval sunnies. Rarely is it a bad idea for a horror film to lean

into style, and "Cuckoo" fully commits.

"Cuckoo" is the brainchild of German director Tilman Singer, but credit also goes to Mr. Singer's predecessors: The works of David Lynch and Dario Argento among them. Gretchen is a reluctant resident in the idyllic, modern home with her detached father (Martin Csokas), stepmother (Jessica Henwick) and mute half-sister Alma (Mila Lieu). She leaves increasingly desperate messages on her mother's answering machine in America.

It's certainly an exaggerated but apt portrait of a new family where the remnants of the old are treated like a nuisance. When Alma starts

having seizures during the vibrations, which no one but Gretchen seems to remember or acknowledge, the parents' attention turns fully to the young girl. They can barely be bothered to care about Gretchen's miraculous survival of a horrifying car wreck; Alma is in the same hospital because of the episodes.

As with many horrors, the big reveals were, for this critic, a little underwhelming — a strained attempt at a unifying theory for this weird place that doesn't add much ultimately. And yet the emotional connection to Gretchen and her complex relationship with Alma does pay off in unexpected ways.

Also, Mr. Stevens deserves special acknowledgement for his contributions to "Cuckoo." This is a man who could have easily languished in blandly handsome leading man roles and instead is becoming one of our great character actors. He is regularly the best and most memorable part of whatever he's in just by his sheer commitment to going there, whether it's his Hawaiian shirt wearing titan veterinarian in "Godzilla x Kong," his Russian pop star in "Eurovision" or any number of his deranged horror characters.

He and Ms. Schafer, always a compelling presence, make "Cuckoo" very much worth it. They exist far too comfortably in this dreamy, nightmarish world dreamt up by Mr. Singer that is well worth a watch.

Wife has doubts about man's fidelity, among other things

DEAR ABBY:
During my entire 40-year marriage, I have wondered if my husband is bisexual.

He met his friend "Ernie" around the same time he met me. My husband has always had female friends as well as Ernie. When he came home late, I'd accuse him of having affairs with his female co-workers.

We have stayed together, although there have been a lot of arguments. Years ago, my brother-in-law went golfing with my husband and Ernie. My brother-in-law told me my problem wasn't another woman — it was a man. When I asked why he thought that, he said my husband and Ernie were in their own little world. He said he wasn't jealous of their friendship, but it was just his opinion.

To cut to the chase, not long ago, my husband and three other friends went on a golf trip. There was a king-size bed in the master bedroom, a second bedroom with two queen-size beds, and a sofa sleeper. I asked my husband about the sleeping arrangements, and he said one slept on the couch, one in the room with two queen beds, and he and Ernie shared the king-size bed.

When I asked what the other guys thought about the two of them sleeping in the same bed he yelled, "I don't care what they thought!" I said, "And it appears you don't care what your wife thinks either."

My husband has always said, "There isn't another woman. You know I love you." He has always denied being bi. He makes me feel like I'm crazy. Please tell me what you think. — FINALLY FED UP IN DELAWARE

DEAR FED UP: For two men to share a bed when

ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
DEAR ABBY

there is another option is, in my opinion, questionable. Never having met your husband, I hesitate

to state whether he is or isn't cheating on you with Ernie. Being bisexual does not make a person an adulterer. If he were to confirm your suspicion that he is bisexual, would it change your longtime marriage? THAT, my friend, is the \$64,000 question.

DEAR ABBY: I'm sure I am not alone on this subject. Occasionally, when I'm in a restaurant, the mall, the grocery store, etc., I'll run into a former co-worker, former classmate, someone I met at a past gathering, etc., and in the moment, I cannot recall their name. This is especially embarrassing when my spouse or a friend is with me and I can't introduce the person.

Sometimes, when someone is with me and I see an acquaintance before they see me, I'll make a detour to avoid the embarrassment of blanking on their names. If I'm alone, I have no problem conversing with the individual even if I can't recall a name. My problem is those embarrassing introductions. Any suggestions? — FORGETFUL IN HAWAII

DEAR FORGETFUL: I agree, it IS embarrassing, and it happens to everyone. It happened to me occasionally when I was in my 20s and needed to introduce my date to someone. There IS a way to get around it, provided you are fast enough. If a "senior moment" isn't something you are willing to admit, then greet your old co-worker, friend, etc., and say something like, "Hi! How NICE to see you!" Then turn to your spouse (or friend) and say, "We used to work together," and let them introduce THEMSELVES.

ANDREWS MCMEEL SYNDICATION

MOVIES

New York Film Festival releases lineup

By JAKE COYLE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK | The New York Film Festival on Tuesday unveiled the main slate for its 62nd edition, with selections including Sean Baker's Palme d'Or-winning "Anora," Pedro Almodovar's "The Room Next Door" and Mati Diop's "Dahomey."

Thirty-three features will make up the central lineup of the annual festival presented by Film at Lincoln Center. The main slate is particularly international this year, with films hailing from 24 countries, and including 19 directors making their debut in the festival's most prestigious section.

The festival, as previously announced, will kick off Sept. 27 with RaMell Ross' "Nickel Boys," an adaptation of Colson Whitehead's Pulitzer Prize-winning 2019 novel. Mr. Almodovar,

Almodovar, Baker, McQueen among featured directors

making his 15th appearance in New York's main slate, will present "The Room Next Door," starring Julianne Moore and Tilda Swinton, as the festival centerpiece. Steve McQueen's "Blitz," about the bombing of London in World War II, will be the closing night film.

A number of prize-winners from May's Cannes Film Festival will be making their U.S. or North American premieres. Along with "Anora," that includes "Grand Tour" by Miguel Gomes, winner of Cannes' best director; Payal Kapadia's "All We Imagine as Light," winner of the Grand Prix; Rungano Nyoni's "On Becoming a Guinea Fowl," a standout from Un Certain Regard; and "The Seed of the

Sacred Fig," from the dissident Iranian filmmaker Mohammad Rasoulof, who fled his home country to unveil his film.

"The festival's ambition is to reflect the state of cinema in a given year, which often means also reflecting the state of the world," said Dennis Lim, the festival's artistic director. "The most notable thing about the films in the main slate — and in the other sections that we will announce in the coming weeks — is the degree to which they emphasize cinema's relationship to reality. They are reminders that, in the hands of its most vital practitioners, film has the capacity to reckon with, intervene in, and reimagine the world."

Also are tap are Paul

Schrader's "Oh, Canada" with Richard Gere and Jacob Elordi, Chinese filmmaker Jia Zhangke's "Caught by the Tides," David Cronenberg's "The Shrouds" and a pair of highlights from Cannes sidebars: Roberto Minervini's American Civil War drama "The Damned" and Carson Lund's baseball elegy "Eephus."

Also coming to New York: Mike Leigh's "Hard Truths"; Brady Corbet's "The Brutalist," starring Adrien Brody as an architect and Holocaust survivor; and the world premiere of Julia Loktev's "My Undesirable Friends: Part I — Last Air in Moscow," a documentary about independent journalism in Vladimir Putin's Russia.

The New York Film Festival, running Sept. 27 to Oct. 14, takes place at Lincoln Center and a handful of other venues around the city.

Horror fans sink teeth into 'Abigail,' 'First Omen'

Here's a look at a pair of entertaining horror films now available in the Blu-ray disc format.

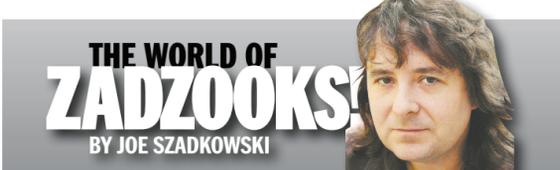
Abigail: Collector's Edition (Universal Studios Home Entertainment, rated R, 110 minutes, 2:39:1 aspect ratio, \$29.98) Directors Matt Bettinelli-Olpin and Tyler Gillett deliver a monstrous twist to their crime dramedy that home entertainment horror fans will surely sink their teeth into.

The woeful tale of six professional criminals kidnapping a young girl named Abigail (Alisha Weir) for ransom goes horribly wrong after they take the budding ballerina to the creepy Wilhelm Manor.

The group quickly finds out that their handler and orchestrator of the job, Lambert (Giancarlo Esposito), has thrown them under the bus after learning that she is the daughter of the legendary, extremely violent and unforgiving crime lord Kristof Lazaar (Matthew Goode). But something even more sinister lies afoot.

Specifically, they are locked in a spooky kill house controlled by a centuries-old vampire. As they say in the monster movie business, "Let the blood buffet ensue."

The gore, culminating with



exploding bodies, merges beautifully with suspense and humor to deliver a fresh and entertaining narrative to the timeworn genre of vampire films.

Ms. Weir also delivers a commanding performance as the young killer, often carrying the story as it evolves into a roller-coaster ride of carnage.

Best extras: The titled "Collector's Edition" does deliver an adequate supply of digital goodies, starting with a welcomed and lighthearted optional commentary track starring both directors and editor Michael P. Shawver (according to the leaders, because everyone else turned them down).

Recorded almost three weeks before the film's release, the discussion is short on anecdotes but loaded with production information touching on the shooting script, editing, casting of Abigail, shooting a film in Ireland, music, effects, combat and costuming.

Viewers also get four featurettes (roughly 22 minutes in total) covering the bloody

practical effects, casting, Abigail's vampiric transformation and the directors modernizing vampire lore.

Also, a surprisingly long, 10-minute gag reel is not very funny but offers a look at the off-screen hijinks on the set.

The First Omen (Walt Disney Studios Home Entertainment, rated R, 119 minutes, 1:85:1 aspect ratio, \$34.99) A recently released prequel to one of the most iconic horror franchises in the history of cinema moves to home theaters in the high definition format to present director Arkasha Stevenson's orchestration of ancient evil.

Set in Rome in 1971, the story introduces an innocent nun-in-training, American Margaret (Nell Tiger Free), who lives with her religious sisters and elders in a Catholic orphanage for girls.

Her introduction to the disturbed and abused Carlita (Nicole Sorace) and a frantic Father Brennan (Ralph Ineson) has her unwittingly exposed to a priest-fueled mission to give

birth to and then control the Antichrist to scare people back into believing in the church.

The narrative builds on simmering terror and discovery as the conspiracy unfolds to identify the mother who will ultimately give birth to Hell's spawn.

A selection of effective jump scares, a bevy of offscreen screams, some gory deaths, a pair of grotesque births and a freaky possession scene deliver the horror and terror.

Fans will find "The First Omen" faithful to the franchise while delivering as much a psychological thriller as a traditional, supernatural horror film.

The 1970s-period piece in a full-screen presentation looks like it was shot in the era with cinematographer Aaron Morton choosing a mooted lighting scheme blended with some sickly yellow interior coloring. Outdoor moments nearly mirror the style of the original, 1976 film.

Best extras: A minuscule collection of three featurettes offers five minutes on the director's vision, as explained by Ms. Stevenson; a five-minute focus on Margaret, as relayed by the actress and director; and eight minutes on the production and brief comparisons to "The Omen."

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Aug. 8). With the power surge of this solar return, you will forge the most profound relationship with yourself that you've ever experienced. A clear goal propels you forward. The sea of external pressures that once encumbered you will part, allowing you to walk great and impossible distances. More highlights: exciting travel, new vitality-boosting habits and a legendary business deal. Scorpio and Virgo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 1, 30, 22 and 18.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). The goal-getting method of starting with the end in mind and planning backward will work for you ... until it doesn't. Certain steps won't add up, and that's when you should ask for help. New input will be a game changer.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You have rules for yourself that you didn't even realize were in place until they started causing you stress. Luckily, these are the kinds of laws you have the power to change because you are the ruler of the country of you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Before you really had a grasp of the boundaries, some areas seemed off-limits. Now that you have the lay of the land, you realize it's all open territory. You'll go where you please and please where you go.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). If anyone with money can have a thing, it's not very interesting to you. You care about the story behind how things came to be as they are now. You care about the significance of items and their meaning, place and use in the world.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Attraction isn't about what you do; it's about how you do it. Small tweaks in your approach will make a difference, but what matters most is the thrust of your intention. People who need care will be drawn by your tenderness.

HOLIDAY MATHIS
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VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You want to bring joy to someone and will be successful as long

as you find the right person to focus your effort on — someone receptive to joy and open to you as well. With the right subject, all else falls into place.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). The essence of etiquette is figuring out what makes others comfortable and behaving within those boundaries. First one must prioritize the comfort of others over their own and recognize that preferences differ.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). As social as you are, solitude is still precious to you. Today's solo experience may reach such epic proportions of sweetness, productivity or peace that none can compete.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Risking with your heart feels dangerous, but just know that fortune will smile on spontaneous expressions of love, but even more so, it favors daily routines that hold your relationships in good stead.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Blame or credit do not need to be assigned. In fact, doing so would only drain your energy, and the next step — following through on the prize or punishment — is even more of a waste of time. Stick to the action, and the rest solves itself.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb.). Persistence and hard work pay off, but usually not at the expected time. Celebrate every small victory along the way. A team effort warrants a trophy and, if you keep at it, you'll eventually get one.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). The good stuff will come wrapped in humor to the extent that you'll wonder if the humor itself is the real gift. Whether you laugh silently to yourself or raucously with friends, you'll be healed by the body shake.

REALTORS.COM

Semifinals feature rematches of U.S.-Serbia, France-Germany tilts

By **TIM REYNOLDS**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PARIS | U.S. coach Steve Kerr knows something unexpected is going to happen when his team plays against Serbia in Thursday night's Olympics semifinals. Maybe Serbia will change its lineup. Maybe Nikola Jokic will play the entire game. Or maybe the surprise will be that there's no surprise at all.

Whatever the case, Kerr knows the Americans have to be ready for anything.

The U.S. will look to reach the gold-medal game for the 18th time in its 20 Olympic appearances when it faces Serbia in the semifinals of the Paris Games. The Americans are 2-0 against Serbia this summer, winning an exhibition last month and then winning again in the Olympic opener for both teams.

"Serbia is really good," Kerr said. "We can't get lulled to sleep because we beat them twice. We have to be prepared for their best effort."

The final four teams at the Paris Games aren't an overly surprising mix, and the semifinal games are both rematches from contests earlier in this tournament.

World Cup champion Germany takes on Victor Wembanyama and host France in the first semifinal, while World Cup runner-up Serbia takes on the four-time defending Olympic champion U.S. in the second semifinal. Germany, Serbia and the U.S. were all favored in their quarterfinal wins over Greece, Australia and Brazil, respectively, while France pulled the lone surprise of sorts by ousting Canada.

Serbia rallied from 24 points down to beat Australia. Germany — which had barely trailed at all in the tournament before Tuesday — erased a 12-point deficit to beat Greece.

"We stayed together. We didn't panic, we stayed together," Germany coach Gordie Herbert said. "Adversity's good. The quarterfinal is one of the toughest games to play. And we just talked about enjoying the moment, but it's easy to say, not so easy to do."

The medal games are Saturday. Thursday's winners play for gold, Thursday's losers play for bronze.

"It's a great feeling to be able to make sure we play on the last day of



"We can't get lulled to sleep because we beat them twice," U.S. coach Steve Kerr said of Serbia in the Olympics semifinals. "We have to be prepared for their best effort."

the tournament, to make sure we give ourselves a chance to win a medal," France guard Evan Fournier said. "And hopefully it's going to be the right one."

How Germany got here: defeated Japan 97-77, defeated Brazil 86-73, defeated France 85-71, defeated Greece 76-63 in quarterfinals.

How France got here: defeated Brazil 78-66, defeated Japan 94-90, lost to Germany 85-71, defeated Canada 82-73 in quarterfinals.

Medal history: France is a three-time silver medalist (1948, 2000, 2020). Germany has never won an Olympic medal in men's basketball.

Outlook: The French rode defense to their win over Canada in the quarterfinals, with the curious case of Rudy Gobert an interesting subplot to that one — he says he had surgery to fix a finger issue, coach Vincent Collet says Gobert didn't have a procedure, but either way, he'll be good to go in the semifinals. Whether he will return to the starting lineup remains unclear. ... This is Germany's first trip to the Olympic semifinals. Going back to last year's World Cup, Germany is 12-0 in major international competition since last summer (excluding exhibitions). ... Thursday's game will be the fourth between these clubs this summer. Germany went 2-1 in the first three, and France's win came when Germany was missing a bunch of starters. ... Germany's Franz Wagner is the highest per-game scorer

left in the tournament, getting 20.8 per contest so far.

How the U.S. got here: defeated Serbia 110-84, defeated South Sudan 103-86, defeated Puerto Rico 104-83, defeated Brazil 122-87 in quarterfinals.

How Serbia got here: lost to U.S. 110-84, defeated Puerto Rico 107-66, defeated South Sudan 96-85, defeated Australia 95-90 in quarterfinals.

Medal history: The U.S. has won 16 golds (1936, 1948, 1952, 1956, 1960, 1964, 1968, 1976, 1984, 1992, 1996, 2000, 2008, 2012, 2016, 2020), one silver (1972) and two bronzes (1988, 2004). Serbia won silver in 2016.

Outlook: The U.S. has started an Olympics with four consecutive games of 100 or more points for only the second time. The other was 1992; that team scored 100 or more in all of its Olympic contests. ... Both U.S. wins over Serbia this summer have been by exactly 26 points — 110-84 in France and 105-79 in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. ... Nikola Jokic is averaging 19.3 points and Bogdan Bogdanovic is averaging 18.5 points for Serbia in these Olympics. ... Anthony Edwards is averaging 16.8 points per game to lead the U.S., and he's doing that coming off the bench. ... If Jayson Tatum makes a 3-pointer in either of the final two U.S. games — he hasn't made one yet this summer — this will be the first U.S. Olympic team in which all 12 players make at least one shot from beyond the arc.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Wilson, Young help U.S. rout Nigeria to reach semifinals

PARIS | A'ja Wilson scored 20 points and Jackie Young added 15 points to help the U.S. beat Nigeria 88-74 on Wednesday night in the quarterfinals of the Paris Games, extending its record winning streak to 59 consecutive Olympic wins.

Breanna Stewart also had 13 for the Americans, who haven't lost since the 1992 Barcelona Games and are now two victories away from an unprecedented eighth consecutive gold medal. They will face a familiar foe in Australia in the semifinals on Friday night.

The Opals routed Serbia 85-67. The other medal round game will feature host France playing Belgium.

The loss ended a historic run by Nigeria, which became the first African country to qualify for the Olympic basketball quarterfinals.

After getting off to slow starts the last few games, the U.S. altered its starting lineup inserting Young for Diana Taurasi. It was the first time Taurasi didn't start since her first Olympics in 2004.

The move worked as the Americans were up 26-17 after the first quarter — the first time they had a lead after one quarter since the opening win over Japan.

FIGURE SKATING

American team finally gets 2022 gold medals

PARIS | A touch of winter came to the Summer Games on Wednesday when the United States figure skating team finally got its gold medals as 2022 Olympic champions.

The special medal ceremony allowed the nine Americans to parade on a runway in the bright Paris sunshine, gaze at the Eiffel Tower and bask in warm cheers from the fans packed into the stands at Champions Park.

Exactly 2½ years after the figure skating team event ended at the Beijing Olympics — and the doping saga of the winning Russian team started — the Americans got the medals that weren't awarded at the time.

All nine American skaters came to Paris, including Evan Bates, Nathan Chen, Madison Chock, Zachary Donohue, Brandon Frazier, Madison Hubbell, Alexa Knierim and Vincent Zhou. Seven of the eight members of the Japan team came to get their silver medals — an upgrade from their third-place result in Beijing.

The athletes were honored with a rendition of "The Star-Spangled Banner," not the Tchaikovsky piano piece that would have been played for the Russians in Beijing. The ceremony in France was watched by family, friends and fans. Not in a near-empty indoor ice arena in China during an Olympics staged through a COVID-19 lockdown.

"It is very memorable for all of us to be here and to get our medals," Karen Chen said, "to just see the crowds, see everything and embrace it all."

WOMEN'S WRESTLING

Hildebrandt wins gold medal after original opponent DQ'd

PARIS | The most unusual day of Sarah Hildebrandt's wrestling career ended with her earning an Olympic gold medal.

The American won the women's 110-pound category on Wednesday, defeating Yusneylis Guzman Lopez of Cuba 3-0 in the championship match to become the fourth U.S. woman to win a gold medal.

For a while, she thought she wouldn't even have a gold medal match.

Vinesh Phogat of India appeared to reach the finals of the 110-pound category after three wins on Tuesday. But United World Wrestling, the sport's governing body, disqualified her after she barely missed weight on Wednesday morning.

Measures such as cutting Phogat's hair weren't enough to shed the necessary weight. India said Phogat was about a fifth of a pound over the weight limit.

Hildebrandt originally thought she had won gold by forfeit. Instead, Guzman Lopez, who had lost to Phogat in a semifinal, was moved up from a bronze medal match.

"There was a lot of celebrating," the 30-year-old Hildebrandt said. "It was very strange. 'Oh my God, I just won the Olympics.' And then an hour later, it was like, psych, you did not win the Olympics. I was like, 'Oh, this is very weird.' So there had to be a reset."

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COLLEGE FOOTBALL

NCAA hands Harbaugh 4-year show cause order for violations

ANN ARBOR, MICH. | The NCAA announced a four-year, show-cause order for former Michigan coach Jim Harbaugh on Wednesday for impermissible contact with recruits and players during the COVID-19 pandemic, effectively banning him from college athletics until August 2028.

The NCAA said Harbaugh, who left his alma mater to coach the Los Angeles Chargers after last season's undefeated national championship, "failed to promote an atmosphere of compliance and violated head coach responsibility obligations."

"Harbaugh engaged in unethical conduct and failed to cooperate when he denied any involvement in impermissible recruiting contacts despite substantial information to the contrary," the NCAA said in a 48-page decision that several times suggested the coach was not truthful with investigators.

Harbaugh will only face the punishment if he makes an unexpected return to college football within the next four years.

NFL

Chiefs kicker Butker stands behind comments in speech

ST. JOSEPH, MO. | Kansas City Chiefs kicker Harrison Butker said Wednesday he was "very intentional" in the comments he made during a polarizing college commencement speech in May and that he stands behind what he said then.

Butker said he didn't initially plan to deliver the May 11 speech at Benedictine College, a private Catholic liberal arts school in Atchison, Kansas. He delivered a commencement speech at his alma mater Georgia Tech in May 2023, and didn't "want to be known as a commencement speaker," he said. Butker reversed course after reflecting upon his relationship with the college.

"I feel like, seven years in the league, having this platform, I've just decided, You know what, there's things that I believe wholeheartedly that I think will make this world a better place, and I'm going to preach that. And if people don't agree, they don't agree, but I'm going to continue to say what I believe to be true and love everyone along the way," Butker said.

Addressing the speech, Butker said, "I prayed about it, and I thought about it, and I was very intentional with what I said, and I stand behind what I said."

TENNIS

Nadal pulls out of U.S. Open, to miss third Grand Slam this year

Rafael Nadal pulled out of the U.S. Open on Wednesday, making it the third Grand Slam tournament he's missed this season and raising more questions about his future in tennis at age 38.

Nadal wrote on social media that he will miss "those electric and special night sessions" in Arthur Ashe Stadium, "but I don't think I would be able to give my 100% this time."

He added that his next event will be the Laver Cup in Berlin on Sept. 20-22. Nadal teamed with Roger Federer in a doubles match at that event in 2022, when Federer played for the final time before his retirement.

Nadal's announcement was not much of a surprise. Yes, he was on the official entry list released last month for New York, but that was more of a formality than anything and did not preclude the 22-time major champion from withdrawing at any point before competition begins Aug. 26.

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

Orioles put No. 2 starter Rodriguez on 15-day injured list

TORONTO | Baltimore right-hander Grayson Rodriguez will be shut down for an unspecified period because of a mild strain in his right shoulder and back but the Orioles are "optimistic" he'll return this season, manager Brandon Hyde said Wednesday.

The Orioles put Rodriguez on the 15-day injured list Wednesday, retroactive to Sunday. The move came one day after Rodriguez was scratched from a start at Toronto and returned to Baltimore for tests. Rodriguez is 13-4 with a 3.86 ERA in 20 starts for the Orioles, tied with Atlanta's Chris Sale and Kansas City's Julio Lugo for the major league lead in victories.

"He's going to miss some time," Hyde said. "We're going to shut him down for a little while, get him some rest and recovery, get him some rehab. I think we're optimistic about it. Hopefully he's going to join us sometime soon. That's yet to be determined. We're going to let him rest for a little bit before we crank him back up."

FROM WIRE DISPATCHES AND STAFF REPORTS.

TRACK

From page B14

Bolt accomplished that double at three Olympics in a row — in Beijing in 2008, London in 2012 and Rio de Janeiro in 2016. But until the Jamaican, no man had done it since Carl Lewis at Los Angeles in 1984.

Before pulling out his narrow win over Jamaica's Kishane Thompson in the 100 final on Sunday night, Lyles didn't finish first in his heat or his semifinal.

As anyone who pays any attention is well aware, Lyles is a showman who loves the spotlight and enjoys spending time with a microphone.

That's obvious from his mean-mugging and gesturing on the purple track in Paris before he runs or such statements as the off-hand comparison between track and the NBA that went viral last year: "The thing that hurts me the most

is I have to watch the NBA Finals and they have 'World Champion' on their head," Lyles said. "World champion of what? The United States?"

So it raised some eyebrows when Lyles, 27, skipped the interview area after Wednesday's run, and U.S. team officials said he was heading to the medical tent. His coach, Lance Brauman, told The Associated Press: "He's fine." That might just add a bit more intrigue in the 24 hours until the medals are at stake.

In Wednesday's 400-meter final, Hall looked out of the running in a race that's all about pace and, more often than not, the problem is going too fast too soon.

The 26-year-old, who breeds dogs and loves riding horses, was yards behind Hudson-Smith and 2012 champion Kirani James, both to his left, and as they rounded the final curve, and was making up ground on Jareem Richards to his outside for what looked like would be a

good battle for bronze.

By the end, James and Richards were afterthoughts, Hall was thrusting his chest at the line to beat the Brit and Samukonga had also come from out of nowhere to take third.

The new champ's reaction when he crossed the line: "I just won. It's over. Next four years, I can say I'm Olympic champion."

Morocco's Soufiane El Bakkali defended his title in men's steeplechase, finishing in 8 minutes, 6.05 seconds for a .36-second win over America's Kenneth Rooks.

Rooks had the lead heading into the homestretch and was looking to pull off a massive upset, but El Bakkali overtook him. Rooks still beat his personal best by almost 9 seconds to capture the second silver over three Olympics in the event for America.

Evan Jager finished second in 2016.



The U.S. women's pursuit team of (from left) Lily Williams, Chloe Dygert, Jennifer Valente and Kristen Faulkner celebrates the win.

PURSUIT

From page B14

on the track and I haven't. I just wanted to live up to their expectations."

Did she ever. Faulkner's relatively recent addition to the squad might have made the difference.

"It's pretty surreal," Williams added. "I do not think anybody expected this."

The Americans led by more than a second a quarter of the way through the 4,000-meter race, and they stretched the gap at one point to nearly two seconds. When they began to come apart from their single-file, aerodynamic draft with about two laps to go, they had to fight to the finish to hold off Ally Wollaston, Bryony Botha, Emily Shearman and Nicole Shields.

"There's just a lot of support for this program," said Dygert, who has been part of the past three U.S. Olympic pursuit teams, "and we've been able to bring in really strong riders, and now we were finally able to pull it off."

In the race for bronze, the British team of Elinor Barker, Josie Knight, Anna Morris and Jessica Roberts pulled back more than a second from Italy over the last half of its race to land on the podium for the fourth straight Summer Games.

In the finals of the men's pursuit, Sam Welsford, Oliver Bledny, Conor Leahy and Kelland O'Brien of Australia beat Britain in a close final at the Vélodrome National de Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines to win gold for the first time in two decades.

"I think it is a fair way away from sinking in," O'Brien said.

The American women's pursuit program had been chasing gold ever since the 2012 London Games, when it finished second to Britain. It lost a rematch four years later in Rio de Janeiro, and then in Tokyo, the U.S. had to beat Canada for bronze.

The Americans came to the velodrome outside of Paris with cautious optimism, though, buoyed by a lineup that already had a pair of medals. Dygert picked herself up from a crash and rallied through the rain to capture time trial bronze, and last weekend, Faulkner attacked in the closing kilometers to win the Americans' first Olympic road race in 40 years.

After its qualifying time pit the U.S. against Britain in the semifinals, the quartet built a nearly half-second lead on its rival by the midway point of the race, and Dygert went to the front for the final lap to bring it home.

Then it was New Zealand's turn, and the top qualifier brushed aside the Italians in their semifinal by nearly three seconds.

In the finals, the Americans showed that they were the class of the Paris Games.

"This has been meticulously put together for over a year, year after year," said Valente, who now will team with Williams in the Madison later in the track cycling program before defending her Olympic title in the multidiscipline omnium.

"I've been part of this pursuit program for a long time, with a lot of different riders," Valente said, "and to be able

to pull together a really strong ride, and have it actually pay off — it's just a really special moment."

In the men's pursuit, Australia roared through qualifying and then took out Olympic champion Italy in the semifinals, setting a world record in the process. Then against Britain, the two teams were separated by less than two-tenths of a second for almost the entire distance, before Daniel Biggam, Ethan Hayter, Charlie Tanfield and Oliver Wood had a problem near the end.

The Australians were able to cruise to gold, while Britain took silver after a disappointing seventh at the Tokyo Games.

The bronze went to the Italians of Simone Consonni, Filippo Ganna, Francesco Lamon and Jonathan Milan, who rallied in the last 1,000 meters as the Danish team of Tobias Hansen, Niklas Larsen, Carl-Frederik Bevert and Rasmus Pedersen fell apart.

"We didn't expect the level (to be) so high in these Olympic Games," Lamon said.

The women's keirin, where six riders spend three laps paced behind a motorized bike called a derny before getting turned loose to sprint for three laps, also began with New Zealand favorite Ellesse Andrews, German stars Lea Friedrich and Emma Hinze, and British standout Emma Finucane getting through their opening heats without a problem.

The medals in the women's keirin along with the men's multidiscipline omnium will be decided Thursday night.

SWIM

From page B14

The smiles, the makeup and hair gelatin remain, but this is no longer the water ballet beneath flowery rubber caps that your grandparents watched.

"It's so worth it, I can hardly believe it," American Megumi Field said, her silver medal around her neck. "Now we have a silver medal. What happened. I'm so excited."

Teammate Jacklyn Luu was quick to

salute the Chinese.

"Their execution is just out of this world," Luu said. "When you see them swim they are like machines out there. So clean. We wanted to put some of that into our swims."

American Jamie Czarkowski also had the Chinese on her mind.

"We have a lot of respect for them," she said. "You can see how much work they put in. They deserve that gold medal — no doubt."

Wednesday's acrobatic routines, after technical and free routines on Monday

and Tuesday, put female athleticism on full display: power, endurance, and energy.

In the acrobatic routine, each team is required to include seven above-water elements. Seven times, a swimmer known as the "flier" is launched 6 feet above the water surface into flips, twists and dives.

She is catapulted into the air from a base of swimmers below that are not allowed to touch the bottom of the pool.

Tricks, more muscular routines

WOMEN'S BOXING

Female boxer protests after loss with 'xx' salute

By Valerie Richardson

THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Sex-disputed boxer Lin Yu-ting of Taiwan advanced Wednesday to the Olympic gold-medal round in the women's featherweight division, but Lin's opponent got in the last jab.

Turkey's Esra Yildiz Kahraman crossed her forefingers twice to make the letters "xx" after losing the bout to Lin, one of two Olympic boxers disqualified from last year's International Boxing Association world championships after lab results found they were ineligible for women's events.

Svetlana Staneva of Bulgaria also made the "xx" salute in the ring Sunday after losing to Lin in the women's quarterfinals for the 126-pound category.

The silent but public protests came with women's sports advocates outraged over the International Olympic Committee's decision to allow Lin and Algerian fighter Imane Khelif to compete in women's boxing despite the 2023 disqualifications.

"Another woman loses her Olympic dream. Another protest. Enough is enough," said Fair Play for Women on X.

Both Lin and Khelif will compete for Olympic gold after winning their semifinal matches in unanimous decisions at Stade Roland Garros in Paris.

The IOC has stood behind the boxers, saying they are "women on their passports" and have complied with the Olympic eligibility criteria for their sport, which does not include sex testing.

In a Monday statement, the IBA said the boxers agreed to undergo gender testing after "many complaints from coaches." Lin did not challenge the results, while Khelif initially appealed to the Court of Arbitration for Sport, but the case was dropped.

IBA officials sent the lab findings to the IOC in May 2023, but a month later, the IOC dropped the association as its boxing authority over governance, financial and judging issues, meaning that the IBA has no role in the Paris Olympics.

Shortly after the testing was conducted, the IBA Board of Directors amended its rules to clarify that competitions "will be conducted only between male athletes and between female athletes."

"Participation of DSD athletes ('differences of sexual development') in boxing competitions were found dangerous for [the] health and security of the boxers," said the IBA statement.

The IOC has insisted that "there is no transgender issue" with the boxers, spurring speculation that the athletes have the Difference in Sexual Development known as 46, XY, meaning they were born with ambiguous genitalia and internal testes, but that they underwent male puberty and produce male-level testosterone.

The athletes have not commented publicly on the gender flap, but in an interview Monday with SNTV, Khelif asked for the public to "refrain from bullying all athletes," saying "it can destroy people."

Lin, 28, is slated to fight for the gold medal on Saturday at Roland Garros, while the 25-year-old Khelif's match in the 145-pound category is scheduled for Friday.

NFL

From page B14

— or moving the start of the season to Labor Day weekend, which the NFL has avoided since the 2000 season.

While moving the Super Bowl to a long holiday weekend might have appeal to many fans who wouldn't have to go to work the next day, it could turn an NFL season into a seven-month marathon from the start of training camp to the final game.

"I feel like a couple people are going to feel like (Nikola) Jokic, ready to go home," Raiders cornerback Nate Hobbs said, referring to the NBA star who complained about the length of that season when his Denver Nuggets won the championship in 2023. "But it takes what it takes, like the real champions are

going to emerge and the real mentally strong survive. ... So, it really doesn't matter. Presidents Day and February all run into each other to me. It's all the same, I'm here now so it is what it is. I know it's for entertainment."

The NFL is getting paid more than \$113 billion over 11 years for its broadcast rights as the most valuable television property. Of the 100 most-watched TV broadcasts in 2023, 93 were NFL games, up from 61 in 2018.

But that extra revenue comes at a price borne by the bodies of the players.

"The fans, and rightfully so, shouldn't know all the injuries we go through, but they don't know what it takes to play on Sundays," said Colts center Ryan Kelly, the team's player representative. "I think it's just too many games."

When the NFL added a 17th game in

2021, the league took away one preseason game. Goodell had said that would be the plan again if the league ever went to an 18-game season.

But that raises concern from coaches about having fewer chances for younger players to prove themselves or develop and does little to ease the concerns of veterans, many of whom play few or no snaps in exhibition games.

"They talk about taking a preseason game out, which to me doesn't really matter because I play in like one preseason game," said 49ers All-Pro tight end George Kittle, who has played 37 snaps in the preseason in the past six years. "Most vets do. So that really doesn't do anything for anybody."

Other concessions would be much more important to players, whether it would be the extra bye week, a change

to the offseason schedule or perhaps, most importantly, a larger share of the revenue. Players had their portion of shareable revenues rise from 47% to 48.5% under the last CBA when the season was increased to 17 games.

An 18th game would increase the size of the revenue pie and perhaps even the share that goes to players. When the season expanded to 17 games in 2021, some players were able to get an extra game check to increase their salary.

ESPN surveyed players in the offseason and found 46% were in favor of expanding the season to 18 games with stipulations, and another 8% willing to do it without any concessions.

"That's another check, right?" 49ers defensive end Leonard Floyd said when asked for his opinion about an 18th game. "More games, more checks."

NFL

NFL eyes 18-game slate three years after expanding to 17

By Josh Dubow
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SANTA CLARA, CALIF. | The debate about whether the NFL will expand the regular season once again seems to have been resolved and now it's a matter of how soon the league adds an 18th game. Commissioner Roger Goodell has talked openly about it, union chief Lloyd Howell recently told the Washington Post that the NFLPA is open to doing it before the current collective bargaining agreement expires after the 2030 season and players seem resigned to the inevitability no matter how they might

personally feel. "I mean, I feel like we really ain't got no choice, to be honest," said Seattle Seahawks veteran receiver Tyler Lockett, who said he'd prefer adding another bye week instead of another game to give TV networks more broadcast windows without taxing the players with another game. "I think that's more fair, but we know it's probably not going to end up like that. So, I mean you just kind of got to rock with the punches and just be able to go play." The NFL has desired adding more games for years, along with the increase

in lucrative national television windows. The league increased the regular season from 14 games to 16 in 1978 and kept it there for decades. But Goodell and the owners pushed through a 17th game in the latest CBA negotiations leading into the 2021 season and aren't content stopping there, with Goodell saying in the spring that going to 18 games remains a priority as long as it can be done without significantly impacting player safety. "If you'd asked me that 10 years ago, I probably would be excited about it. Now, not so excited, but it is what it is," Raiders receiver Davante Adams said.

"That's the thing that's special about football and why I really wanted to play football over basketball, is that I just feel like it's a different type of feeling knowing that you only have a limited amount of opportunities out there." Adding another game to the season would add more broadcast windows. It also could push the Super Bowl to Presidents Day weekend with a federal holiday the day after the game. That would either require not adding a second bye week — which most players said would be needed to play an extra game



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NFL players appear resigned to the league's desire to expand the regular season once again, adding an 18th game to its schedule.

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PARIS 2024



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American runner Quincy Hall beats Britain's Matthew Hudson-Smith to win the gold medal Wednesday in the men's 400-meter final at the Olympics in Saint-Denis, France.

OUT OF NOWHERE

Come-from-behind thriller puts Hall atop medal stand in 400 meters

By Eddie Pells
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAINT-DENIS, FRANCE | Quincy Hall became the latest American to electrify Olympic track and field with an out-of-nowhere comeback, sprinting from far behind in the 400 meters Wednesday night to reel in three runners and capture another gold medal for the U.S. Hall, buried in fourth place as the sprinters rounded the last bend, outran the runner on his outside, then two more

to the inside to cross the line in 43.40 seconds, the fourth-fastest time ever. He dropped to the track to do snow angels to celebrate. "I've got determination," Hall said. "That's what got me to that line. A lot of hurt, a lot of pain." Hall beat Britain's Matthew Hudson-Smith by .04 seconds — that's now the fifth-fastest time in history — and Muzala Samukonga of Zambia finished third. Hall is the first American since LaShawn Merritt in 2008 to capture gold

in the one-lap race. His victory came an evening after American Cole Hocker came from far behind late to beat the favorites in the men's 1500. Add in Alexandria native Noah Lyles, whose only lead in his 100-meter thriller came when he crossed the finish line, and these Americans are turning into quite the comeback kids. Hall's win came about an hour after Lyles advanced to the final of the 200 meters despite finishing second to Letsile Tebogo in his semifinal. Lyles, a native

of Alexandria, Virginia, will race for the gold Thursday. The 200 is Lyles' preferred, and better, distance — one at which he had not lost a race in three full years. That streak was snapped at the Stade de France, where Letsile Tebogo of Botswana beat him to the line by crossing in 19.96 seconds, 0.12 faster than runner-up Lyles. Getting golds in the 100 and 200 at a single Olympics is a rare feat. Usain

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China dominates with artistic swimming gold, U.S. earns silver

By Stephen Wade
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAINT-DENIS, FRANCE | China took gold in the artistic swimming team event Wednesday night at the Paris Olympics, with the United States getting silver and Spain taking bronze. China dominated in the absence of Russia, which had won every gold medal in artistic beginning with the 2000 Sydney Games. China finished with 996.1389 points, ahead of the Americans' 914.3421 and Spain's 900.7319. It was

the first U.S. medal in the sport since 2004. It was a big medal for China, and also a step forward for the sport, which changed its name from synchronized swimming several years ago to update its image. Some swimmers still call it "synchro." "There is attention to the sport that has never happened before," said Adam Andrasko, who heads USA Artistic Swimming. "This is an absolutely different sport."

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American time trial bronze medalist Chloe Dygert takes a victory lap with the U.S. flag after winning the gold medal in the women's team pursuit event.

U.S. women's pursuit team takes gold after 12 years of bronze, silver

By Dave Skretta
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MONTIGNY-LE-BRETONNEUX, FRANCE | The American women's pursuit team had twice before raced for the Olympic gold medal, and it had been on the podium all three times the event had been on the program for the Summer Games. Successful, to be sure, but also disappointing, because it had never been the top step. On a steamy Wednesday night at the Olympic velodrome, road race

champion Kristen Faulkner, time trial bronze medalist Chloe Dygert, Jennifer Valente and Lilly Williams finally took that last step up. They soared to a big early lead on New Zealand in their head-to-head showdown, then held on through a ragged finish to finally win the gold medal at the Paris Games. "We knew we had a strong team coming in," Faulkner said with a smile, "and I feel like the lucky one, because they have won medals before

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