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Democracy Dies in Darkness

TUESDAY, AUGUST 13, 2024 • \$3

FBI probes suspected hacking of campaigns

Since June, agents have pursued evidence of Iran targeting Trump, Biden

This article is by Devlin Barrett, Josh Dawsey, Tyler Pager, Isaac Arnsdorf and Shane Harris

The FBI is investigating suspected hacking attempts by Iran targeting both a Trump associate and advisers to the Biden-Harris campaign, according to people familiar with the matter, as the agency formally acknowledged Monday it has opened a high-stakes national security investigation months before Election Day.

Three staffers on the Biden-Harris campaign received spear phishing emails that were designed to appear legitimate but could give an intruder access to the recipients' communications, according to people familiar with the matter who spoke on the condition of anonymity to describe a sensitive investigation. So far, investigators have not found evidence that those hacking attempts were successful, these people said.

The FBI began the investigation in June, suspecting Iran was behind the attempts to steal data from two U.S. presidential campaigns. Agents contacted Google, among other companies, to discuss what appeared to be a phishing effort targeting people associated with the Biden campaign, these people said.

The new details show the investigation is broader and involves more potential victims than previously known. It also underscores the degree to which hacking by foreign nations targeting U.S. political candidates may simply be a recurring feature

SEE HACKING ON A5

ELECTION 2024

In Senate, Harris took spotlight as a Trump foil

BY LIZ GOODWIN AND LEIGH ANN CALDWELL

Jeff Sessions, then Donald Trump's attorney general, had faced only about three minutes of a freshman senator's fusillade of questions before he began to crack.

Testifying in front of his former colleagues on the Senate Intelligence Committee as they investigated Russia's influence on the 2016 election, Sessions fiercely pushed back on criticism that he had failed to disclose his earlier interactions with the Russian ambassador to the United States. But it was a brand-new member of the panel, Kamala Harris, who elicited his rawest reaction at the June 2017 hearing, when she pressed Sessions repeatedly on whether he had interacted with other Russian nationals during the campaign, in a rapid-fire style that left him visibly flustered.

"I'm not able to be rushed this fast. It makes me nervous," Sessions said.

It was a viral moment — and the first of many for Harris during her four years as a Democrat representing California in the Senate, where she deployed

SEE HARRIS ON A8

Dangerous wildfire rages around Greek capital



ALEXANDROS AVRAMIDIS/REUTERS

People stand on the roof of a building as smoke rises from a wildfire burning in Vrilissia, outside Athens. The fire, with flames that have reached up to 80 feet, has prompted mass evacuations from several suburbs. **Story, A9**

Putin demands to regain control in Kursk

More civilians evacuated as Kyiv solidifies foothold in invader's homeland

BY ROBYN DIXON

Nearly a week into a stunning Ukrainian incursion into western Russia, the acting governor of the Kursk region told President Vladimir Putin and other security officials Monday that the situation is "complicated," with Kyiv's forces having advanced 7½ miles into the country and controlling more than two dozen villages.

"As of today, the enemy is in control of 28 communities, having advanced 12 kilometers into the Kursk region on a 40-kilometer-wide front," Alexei Smirnov told the officials via video conference. "For us, the problem is that



Source: Institute for the Study of War

THE WASHINGTON POST

there is no clear front line, no understanding of where the [Ukrainian] combat units are. It is very important to know where the enemy is and at what time."

Putin, in the operational meeting broadcast on the Kremlin's website, demanded that the military eject Ukrainian forces from Kursk and insisted that Russia would prevail.

"The main goal facing the Defense Ministry is definitely to oust and knock the enemy out of our territories and along with the Border Service reliably guarantee border security," Putin said. "The enemy will certainly get an appropriate response, and all the goals facing us will undoubtedly be achieved."

Also Monday, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky for the first time fully acknowledged Ukraine's incursion into Kursk, claiming in a meeting with senior

SEE RUSSIA ON A11

Wary of war, Iran waits

MIDDLE EAST HOLDS ITS BREATH

Tehran wrestles with retaliation against Israel

BY SUSANNAH GEORGE, SUZAN HAIDAMOUS AND MUSTAFA SALIM

BEIRUT — Since Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh's assassination, Israel, Washington and the wider Middle East have nervously waited — and waited — for Iran's promised retaliation. Nearly two weeks later, the response has yet to come, as Tehran wrestles with how to calibrate its counter-attack.

In public, Iranian officials are continuing to warn of a "tough" reprisal to "punish" Israel. But in private meetings with the leaders of its armed proxies, according to those familiar with the conversations, Iran has called for caution — seeking to balance any show of force with the desire to avoid an all-out war in the region.

Striking that balance will be difficult. Iran's first direct attack on Israel — when it unleashed more than 300 drones and missiles in April in retaliation for a deadly Israeli strike on an Iranian diplomatic facility in Syria — erased red lines that had long contained the countries' shadow war. The two sides avoided a wider confrontation, as Israel and a U.S.-backed alliance intercepted most of the incoming fire. This time, Iran is more politically unsettled at home, and less certain of Israeli restraint.

SEE IRAN ON A10

Lead lurks in schools' taps, but water is often untested

BY SILVIA FOSTER-FRAU

SPRING VALLEY, N.Y. — When the state of New York became the first in the nation to require all public schools to test their drinking water for lead in 2016, Keyry Broncano learned that water drawn from 68 different taps at her high school contained dangerously high lead levels.

Then Broncano, at the time a high school junior, discovered that the water she'd been drinking since kindergarten in the East Ramapo Central School District, about an hour north of New York City, probably contained elevated lead levels: Water from 23 taps at her elementary school was found to contain at least 15 parts per billion of lead. At her middle school, 85 taps had high lead levels.

"I was like, 'I think I've been drinking poison,'" Broncano said, recalling rushing home to explain the news to her mother, a Guatemalan immigrant.

It's an experience that has been repeated in schools across the country since 2014, when a crisis involving lead in the water in Flint, Mich., prompted some states to adopt new testing requirements for schools and day-care centers.

Whenever states, counties or

SEE LEAD ON A4

Locals swelter in Death Valley's relentless heat

When average daily temperatures stay above 100 degrees, how do residents survive?

BY REIS THEBAULT

DEATH VALLEY, CALIF. — Early in the year, when so much water flooded this place that kayaks could float across it, or later, when its hills burst with radiant color, the moniker could feel like a misnomer.

But in the summer months — which keep getting hotter, setting records on a nearly annual basis — Death Valley earns its name.

For the sightseers and second-home dwellers, the infernal heat is a novelty. But full-time residents have to live in Death Valley's extreme temperatures day in, day out. And lately, it's getting harder.

"You have this sensation that you can't get cool," said Brian Brown, who owns and operates the China Ranch Date Farm in Tecopa, a small rural community near the southern end of Death Valley National Park. "It makes me doubt my sanity."

In July, the hottest and driest place in America outdid itself. Last month in Death Valley was

SEE DEATH VALLEY ON A6



BRIDGET BENNETT FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Brian Brown, owner and operator of the China Ranch Date Farm in Tecopa, Calif., takes a break indoors during a workday. He and his workers continually douse their shirts with water to keep cool.

IN THE NEWS

X marks the spot Donald Trump's much-anticipated discussion with Elon Musk on the social media platform was marred by technical errors, starting 40 minutes late. **A7**

Blast victims identified A homeowner and a utility worker were killed when a house exploded in Bel Air, Md., on Sunday. **B1**

THE NATION Fewer candidates are showing up for political debates, a phenomenon some observers attribute to an increasingly divided landscape and technological changes in campaigning. **A3**

THE WORLD The United States has ramped up deployment of vessels to the Middle East in anticipation of an attack on Israel in retaliation for the killing of Hamas's political leader. **A10**

THE ECONOMY A Coca-Cola ad that was meant to distance the company from Israel and quell boycotts backfired. **A12** Boeing's manufacturing woes long preceded a midair blowout on an Alaska Airlines flight in January, NTSB hearings showed. **A16**

THE REGION A campaign to recall Ward 6 D.C. Council member Charles Allen failed to get enough signatures to make the ballot. **B1** At least seven people in Montgomery County have lost \$6.3 million to gold bar scams this year, authorities said. **B1**

STYLE A right-wing YouTube purchase of a DIY skate park in West Virginia riled skaters, who don't want to be associated with him. **C1**

HEALTH & SCIENCE Doctors couldn't figure out a woman's sudden episodes of outbursts and confusion. **E1**

BUSINESS NEWS.....A12
COMICS.....C5
OBTUARIES.....B4
OPINION PAGES.....A13
TELEVISION.....C3
WORLD NEWS.....A9

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CORRECTIONS

• An Aug. 11 A-section article about the tumult in Venezuela misstated the first name of the opposition candidate in the country's contested presidential election. He is Edmundo González.

• The In the Galleries column in the Aug. 11 Arts & Style section incorrectly identified an artist as Mary McCracken. She is Molly McCracken.

• In some July 25 editions, a Metro article about D.C.'s Peer Case Management Institute incorrectly referred to it as a Howard University program. The program was helmed by D.C.'s Department of Human Services in partnership with Howard.

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Trump's laundry list of falsehoods are getting increasingly bizarre

The Fix

AARON
BLAKE

Donald Trump on Sunday claimed that a large gathering of plainly evident people who

greeted Vice President Kamala Harris at a rally in a Detroit airport hangar "DIDN'T EXIST?"

"Nobody was there," the former president claimed on Truth Social, accusing the Harris campaign of using artificial intelligence to superimpose the crowd both on the tarmac and at other rallies.

This is bonkers, even by Trump's own conspiratorial and falsehood-laden standards.

The rally was attended by reporters from The Washington Post and other outlets who observed the large crowd, which was estimated at around 15,000 people by local news outlet MLive. It was documented by plenty of video and photos, including those from many people in the crowd.

But it was merely the latest in a string of bizarre claims from the former president in recent days, weeks and months. It's difficult to truly compare the relative ridiculousness of Trump's claims over time, but there is no question he's pushed the envelope in new and astonishing ways. Trump has often made false claims about crowd sizes, but this was truly taking things to a new level by claiming "nobody" was there.

Let's recap 10 of the most recent examples.

1. Harris's rally crowds 'DIDN'T EXIST' and 'nobody was there'

"Has anyone noticed that Kamala CHEATED at the airport? There was nobody at the plane, and she 'A.I.'d' it, and showed a massive 'crowd' of so-called followers, BUT THEY DIDN'T EXIST! ... She's a CHEATER. She had NOBODY waiting, and the 'crowd' looked like 10,000 people! Same thing is happening with her fake 'crowds' at her speeches." (Sunday on Truth Social)

"Look, we caught her with a fake 'crowd.' There was nobody there!" (later Sunday on Truth Social)

This theory germinated after some conspiracy-minded Trump allies began analyzing the reflections on the underside of Harris's airplane, which didn't appear to show many people. As The Post's Philip Bump notes, that's in part because the plane was angled away from the crowd. But even aside from that, this rally was live-streamed and documented in real time by many people. The level of coordination and complicity in simulating a crowd across all of those accounts is too mind-boggling to consider.

And just to underscore: Trump didn't merely say the crowd was augmented to appear bigger. He said it was wholly manufactured from "nobody."

2. Biden prepared to have the FBI assassinate Trump

"... Crooked Joe Biden's DOJ, in their Illegal and UnConstitutional Raid of Mar-a-



ELIJAH NOUVELAGE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Attendees at a campaign event in Atlanta for Donald Trump on Aug. 3, when he said, without evidence, that Democrats labeling him a "threat to democracy" incited the assassination attempt on him.

Lago, AUTHORIZED THE FBI TO USE DEADLY (LETHAL) FORCE. NOW WE KNOW, FOR SURE, THAT JOE BIDEN IS A SERIOUS THREAT TO DEMOCRACY." (May 21 on Truth Social)

"You know they're just itching to do the unthinkable ... Joe Biden was locked & loaded ready to take me out & put my family in danger." (May 21 in a fundraising email)

This appeared to refer to newly unsealed documents from the August 2022 search for classified documents at Mar-a-Lago. Policy language used for the search warrant stated that agents were allowed to use deadly force if they faced "imminent danger of death or serious physical injury." But that is standard language for such searches.

3. Democrats' messaging is to blame for the assassination attempt on Trump

"Remember the words they use: 'They are a threat to democracy.' They've been saying that about me for seven years. I think I got shot because of that, okay?" (Aug. 3 rally in Atlanta)

There remains no evidence that the July 13 shooter, Thomas Matthew Crooks, who wounded Trump in an assassination attempt, was incited by Democrats — much less their specific claims about Trump being a threat to democracy. Investigators are still searching for a motive, but Crooks was a registered Republican who once contributed \$15 to the Progressive Turnout Project PAC. Beyond that, Trump has increasingly used the same "threat to democracy" attack against Democrats in recent weeks, despite its supposed incitement qualities.

4. Biden faked covid

"Does anybody really believe that Crooked Joe had Covid? No, he wanted to get out ever since June 27th, the night of The Debate, where he was completely

obliterated." (July 21 on Truth Social)

"Biden never had Covid. He is a threat to Democracy!" (July 21 on Truth Social)

There is zero evidence that Biden did not have covid. His doctor attested to it and described treatments Biden was receiving, and Biden's campaign quickly canceled a planned event when it reported he had tested positive.

5. Trump went down in a helicopter with Willie Brown

"Well, I know Willie Brown very well. In fact, I went down in a helicopter with him. We thought maybe this is the end. We were in a helicopter going to a certain location together, and there was an emergency landing. This was not a pleasant landing." (Thursday news conference)

Brown, the former California state assembly speaker and San Francisco mayor, has firmly denied any such event. Nate Holden, a former Los Angeles city councilman and state senator who, like Brown, is Black, told Politico he was riding with Trump around 1990 when their helicopter almost crashed. But Trump has doubled down in claiming it was Brown. He claimed Friday in an angry phone call to the New York Times that he had flight records to back up his account, but his campaign hasn't produced them.

6. Biden will try to reclaim The Democratic nomination

"What are the chances that Crooked Joe Biden ... CRASHES the Democrat National Convention and tries to take back the Nomination, beginning with challenging me to another DEBATE. He feels that he made a historically tragic mistake by handing over the U.S. Presidency, a COUP, to the people in the World he most hates, and he wants it back, NOW!!!" (Aug. 6 on Truth Social)

"I hear he's going to make a comeback at the Democrat

convention. He's going to walk into the room, and he's going to say, 'I want my presidency back. I want another chance to debate Trump. I want another chance.'" (Friday in Montana)

There is zero evidence of this, and you could certainly understand it as being the fantasy of a former president who has made clear he would prefer to still face Biden rather than Harris. Biden has also released his pledged delegates to the Democratic National Convention next week, and the vast majority of them quickly pledged themselves to Harris. Trump's comments actually came after Harris had officially secured the Democratic nomination in a virtual roll call vote.

7. Harris only recently identified as Black

"She was always of Indian heritage, and she was only promoting Indian heritage. I didn't know she was Black until a number of years ago when she happened to turn Black, and now she wants to be known as Black. So I don't know, is she Indian, or is she Black?" (July 31 at the National Association of Black Journalists conference)

"From her standpoint, I think it's very disrespectful to both, really. Whether it's Indian or Black, I think it's very disrespectful to both." (Thursday news conference)

Harris's late mother was from India, and her father is from Jamaica. Harris has long identified as both Indian American and Black, dating back decades, including in attending a historically Black college. Trump's campaign has defended the comments by pointing to when Harris identified as Indian, as if she had to choose between the two.

8. Trump's Jan. 6 crowd was bigger than MLK's

"If you look at Martin Luther King when he did his [March on Washington] speech [in August

1963], his great speech, and you look at ours — same real estate, same everything — same number of people. If not, we had more." (Thursday news conference)

As Bump noted last week, the National Park Service estimated that King's speech drew around 250,000 people, and photographs and video of Jan. 6 make clear Trump's wasn't close. The House Jan. 6 committee estimated it around 53,000.

9. Other countries are emptying their prisons and sending criminals to the United States

"The prison population all over the world is at the lowest point it's been in many decades because they're dumping their prisoners into our country." (March 4 in Richmond)

"Caracas, Venezuela, really a dangerous place. But not anymore, because in Venezuela, crime is down 72 percent. ... They're down because they're sending their murderers to the United States of America. This is going to be very bad. And bad things are going to happen." (July 18 Republican National Convention speech)

"[Venezuela has] released tremendous numbers of criminals into our country. If you look at Caracas, it was known for being a very dangerous city. And now it's very safe." (Aug. 5 interview with Adin Ross)

Trump has alluded to such an idea before, dating back to his 2015 campaign launch when he suggested Mexico was sending criminals across the border. But he has greatly expanded such claims lately and is focusing on Venezuela. Immigration experts know of no such effort, whether from Venezuela or any other country. Crime has dropped in Venezuela in recent years, but not as substantially as Trump has claimed, and criminologists there attribute it to many other factors, according to PolitiFact.

10. Democrats want to allow killing babies after birth

"The problem they have is they're radical because they will take the life of a child in the eighth month, the ninth month, and even after birth, after birth." (June 27 debate with Biden)

"But previous to [Virginia Gov.] Glenn [Youngkin], the governor, he said, 'The baby will be born. We will put the baby aside, and we will decide with the mother what we're going to do.' In other words, whether or not we're going to kill the baby. The Minnesota gentleman [Democratic vice-presidential nominee Tim Walz], he — this guy agrees with that." (Thursday news conference)

This is another claim that isn't exactly new but that Trump has increasingly stretched beyond the standard Republican talking point — particularly as the abortion issue has become a liability for the GOP. It traces back to inartful comments made by then-Virginia governor Ralph Northam (D) in 2019. Infanticide is not legal in any state, nor have any well-known Democrats actually pushed for it.

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DIGEST

CALIFORNIA

4.4-magnitude quake rattles L.A. area

Residents across much of Los Angeles had a brief "whoa" moment on Monday afternoon as an earthquake shook the area, causing apartments to sway, items to fall off shelves, and car alarms to blare.

The 4.4-magnitude earthquake hit El Sereno, near South Pasadena in the northeast area of Los Angeles, at 12:20 p.m., according to the U.S. Geological Survey. It was felt from greater Los Angeles south to San Diego and east to the Palm Springs desert region, according to the USGS community reporting page.

Fire departments in Pasadena and around the Los Angeles area said there were no reports of serious damage or injuries.

The quake shook a medical building, a live interview on ESPN was interrupted, and the ground swayed in Anaheim, where Disneyland is located in Orange County.

TV news helicopters showed water spilling from an upper floor of Pasadena City Hall, an ornate domed structure dating to 1927 and seismically retrofitted in the 2000s. Pasadena public information officer Lisa Derderian confirmed to the Associated Press that the water leak was caused by the quake.

About 200 employees safely evacuated from City Hall, and one person was rescued from an

elevator, she said.

— Brianna Sacks and Associated Press

TEXAS

Site of church shooting razed amid protests

Crews on Monday tore down a Texas church where a gunman killed more than two dozen worshippers in 2017, using heavy machinery to raze the small building even after some families sought to preserve the scene of the deadliest church shooting in U.S. history.

A judge cleared the way last month for the First Baptist Church of Sutherland Springs to tear down the sanctuary where the attack took place, which until now had been kept as a memorial. Church members voted in 2021 to tear it down, but some families in the community of less than 1,000 people filed a lawsuit hoping for a new vote on the building's fate.

Authorities put the number of dead in the Nov. 5, 2017, shooting at 26 people, including a pregnant woman and her unborn baby. After the shooting, the interior of the sanctuary was painted white and chairs with the names of those who were killed were placed there. A new church was completed for the congregation about a year and a half after the shooting.

The man who opened fire in the church, Devin Patrick Kelley, died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound after he was chased by two

men and crashed his car. Investigators have said the shooting appeared to stem from a domestic dispute involving Kelley and his mother-in-law, who sometimes attended services at the church but was not present on the day of the shooting.

— Associated Press

NEW YORK

Ex-Cornell student sentenced for threats

A former Cornell University student arrested for posting statements threatening violence against Jewish people on campus in the fall after the start of the war in Gaza was sentenced Monday to 21 months in prison.

Patrick Dai, of suburban Rochester, N.Y., was accused by federal officials in October of posting anonymous threats to shoot and stab Jewish people on a Greek life forum. The threats came during a spike in antisemitic and anti-Muslim rhetoric related to the war and rattled Jewish students on the campus in Upstate New York.

Dai, 22, pleaded guilty in April to posting threats to kill or injure another person using internet communications.

He was sentenced in federal court to 21 months in prison and three years of supervised release by Judge Brenda Sannes.

Dai, who was a junior at the time, was suspended from the Ivy League school in Ithaca, N.Y.

— Associated Press

POLITICS & THE NATION

ELECTION 2024

A sign of very partisan times: Empty chairs at debates

Candidates at all levels are increasingly spurning head-to-head faceoffs

BY KARIN BRULLIARD

LANDER, WYO. — The latest Republican primary debate here for two state House seats covered energy, public lands and other stock-in-trade Wyoming political topics. The audience submitted questions on index cards. A local attorney moderated.

Just two things were missing from the otherwise ordinary event: half of the four candidates. They'd spurned the invitation.

"You're going to hear what I have to say, but there's silence here," Lloyd Larsen, the District 54 incumbent, said as he gestured at the empty chair next to him. "It's unfortunate."

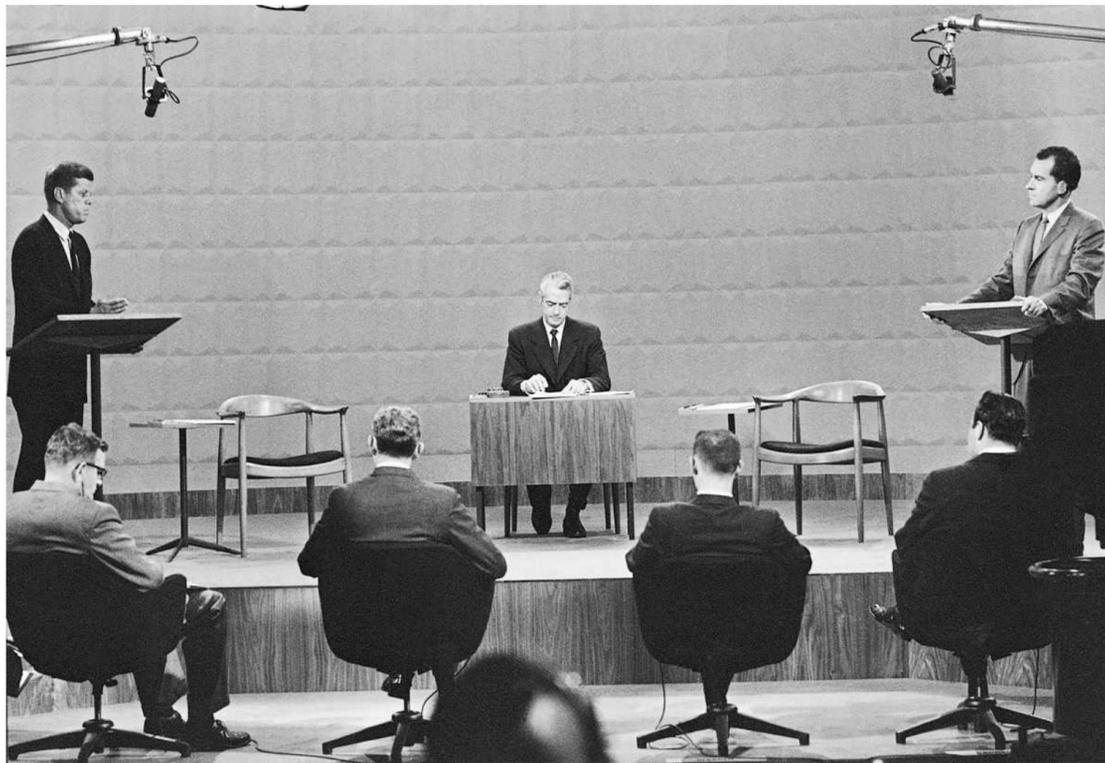
The absent challengers, both hard-line Republicans vying for districts so solidly red that no Democrats are running, had said they wouldn't attend because they distrusted the local League of Women Voters — despite the chapter organizing the forum with the Fremont County GOP and its Democratic counterpart.

Their refusal, though event-specific, was far from unusual. Seeing candidates side by side is getting rarer as more contenders opt out of debates or forums with their opponents. Strategists, organizers and experts say the shift reflects not just an erosion of a ritual long central to American elections and democracy, but also a divided political landscape where sparring takes place online and candidates prioritize attention for supporters instead of the broader community.

"Our country depends on people of different perspectives talking through the issues and trying to find common ground. I think we have a lack of civility in part today because we don't really see that modeled by many political leaders," said Gibbs Knotts, a Coastal Carolina University political scientist who has written about political debates. "It's impossible to replicate through 30-second ads and campaign speeches."

Some skeptics cite that lack of civility — the insults and misinformation that often overshadow substantial policy discussion — as reason to abandon debates. Knotts said he remains a believer, pointing to research that has found they help voters feel confident in their choices, particularly during primaries or when candidates are relatively unknown.

Debate dodging is occurring at the highest level, with former president Donald Trump refusing to take part in the Republican primary forums and, this month, pulling out of an ABC debate against Vice President Kamala Harris. On Thursday, he reversed



Sen. John F. Kennedy, left, and Vice President Richard M. Nixon face each other in a studio at Chicago television station WBBM during a debate moderated by Howard K. Smith, center, on Sept. 26, 1960. It was the first live, televised presidential debate.

course and agreed to a Sept. 10 date.

But skipping is also seen down-ballot, at every level, among Republicans and Democrats alike.

In San Francisco, a mayoral debate was called off in May after the three candidates bailed amid complaints about the sponsor and potential moderators. The same month, the Detroit Regional Chamber canceled a U.S. Senate debate after the front-runners, Rep. Elissa Slotkin (D-Mich.) and former congressman Mike Rogers (R), pulled out just days before. Then in June, a Hamilton County, Tenn., school board debate was scuttled when most candidates for contested seats — nearly all Republicans — declined to attend.

The Detroit chamber, which has hosted statewide debates since 2010, issued a terse announcement: "Today's dynamics favor sound bites, clicks, and 'likes' and let political strategy take precedence over informing voters by standing 'in the arena' debating ideas, priorities, and values with others vying for the same position of public trust."

The American debate tradition began in 1858 in Illinois, when Democratic U.S. Sen. Stephen Douglas and his Republican challenger, Abraham Lincoln, argued in seven faceoffs over whether slavery should extend into new states. The first live, televised presidential debate, between Vice President Richard M. Nixon and

Sen. John F. Kennedy, the Democratic nominee, took place in 1960. But debates did not take off until the 1970s, becoming even more established with the formation in 1987 of the bipartisan Commission on Presidential Debates.

The group's influence has waned in recent years. The Republican National Committee withdrew in 2022, calling it biased and unwilling to adopt format changes and other reforms. This year, Trump and President Joe Biden bypassed the commission to organize debates directly with television networks.

The number of debates in competitive U.S. Senate races declined steadily from 2010 to 2022, according to a Brookings Institution analysis. More candidates are also declining to participate in forums sponsored by more than 700 state and local chapters of the League of Women Voters, the league says. The organization takes precedence over informing voters by standing 'in the arena' debating ideas, priorities, and values with others vying for the same position of public trust.

"We've been hosting these for over 100 years. The league has not changed," said Dianna Wynn, the organization's president. "If I were a voter, I would be asking why are some political candidates not willing to turn up and answer questions?"

Candidates' refusal to debate makes sense, strategists note — for the candidates. For incumbents, they say, there is often only downside, with Biden's campaign-killing performance in June as Example A. And redistricting has made many state and congressional offices less competitive, giving those in safe seats little strategic reason to debate.

Social media, meanwhile, offers candidates an easy avenue for communicating directly with voters in controlled messages. Yet it also guarantees that gaffes can circulate widely and endlessly.

"It used to be you screw up on a debate, maybe that's a bad 24-hour news cycle. ... Now if you screw up on a debate, it goes viral and circles around the world several times," said John Thomas, a veteran Republican strategist in Texas who works on state and national campaigns. He usually recommends that clients skip debates, in part because down-ballot audiences are more often small and composed of unpersuadable voters. "You could be doing a Facebook live. You could be raising money. You could be door-knocking."

When Bexar County, Tex., Commissioner Rebeca Clay-Flores declined this spring to appear at events with her Democratic primary runoff opponent, her campaign told San Antonio Report that she was focused on "talking to voters directly throughout the precinct."

That was a disappointment to Brady Alexander, president of the Hot Wells Mission Reach Neighborhood Association, which, along with other community groups, had invited Clay-Flores to one of its candidate forums.

"My job is to ensure that members can make an objective decision on voting and meet with the candidates, not rely on fliers or assistants who come by or hear-say," Alexander said. "We want to hear all sides."

The forum was held anyway, with a seat for the absent commissioner. Missing it did not seem to harm her campaign: Clay-Flores won the runoff.

A steady increase in candidates who said no to the City Club of Cleveland, a longtime debate organizer, led its chief executive, Dan Moulthrop, to spearhead the Ohio Debate Commission, a collaborative of universities, media organizations and civic groups. The idea, he said, was to create a central authority to host high-quality debates and discourage candidates' venue-shopping.

It has had successes, hosting several statewide debates. It also has had disappointments, with Republican Gov. Mike DeWine turning down its invitation to debate his 2022 primary opponents. The commission is trying to organize a debate between Democratic Sen. Sherrod Brown and Republican challenger Bernie Moreno, but Moulthrop isn't sure the two will agree.

In central Wyoming, Scott Harnsberger said he made it a goal to organize primary debates when he became chair of the Fremont County Republican Party in early 2023, "to get our candidates practiced up for the general election." When the local League of Women Voters approached him about teaming up for forums this summer, he was initially dubious. But it had the means to publicize the event, and he had the final word on the questions the moderator would ask.

"I feel it's been very nonpartisan on their part," Harnsberger said.

The chapter prides itself on focusing on voter education and participation, not hot-button partisan issues, chair Linda Barton said. "We live in Wyoming!" she said. "It's not like we can go crazy."

Still, five candidates running for legislative districts in the county did not buy it. Three are associated with the firebrand Freedom Caucus wing of the fractured state GOP, and together they took out an ad in a local newspaper declaring that they would not attend any league events.

"We are not confident that the league is as nonpartisan as the league claims," it read.

Some voters decried this in letters to the editor. Harnsberger slammed it in a letter of his own: If the candidates "will not face voter questions before the election, will they listen to us if elected?"

At the forum in Lander, a quaint county seat of 7,500, Rep. Larsen from District 54 sat at a table with Rep. Ember Oakley of District 55. She blasted campaign mailers for their opponents that she said spouted "verifiably false" information, including that both incumbents had voted against a property tax bill they actually had sponsored.

"I was raised with a live-and-let-live form of conservatism that I believe has served as the heart of Wyoming for generations," Oakley told the audience, gathered in a gracious library hall. "There is not one person that I represent that I will not have a discussion with."

Nameplates for Larsen's challenger, Tina Clifford, and Oakley's challenger, Joel Guggenmos, sat on the table. Neither responded to interview requests.

Among the 50 or so people listening was Kristi Green, a retired district court clerk who had run several times for that job.

"Every four years, I had an interview with the people to see if I could keep my job," she said, remembering the debates. "And it was important for me to have my opponents there so we could show our differences."

The questions on this night had seemed fair to her, she said. She just wished she had heard the other candidates' answers.

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No national mandate for schools to test for lead in water

LEAD FROM AI

school districts have decided to test the water in their schools, lead has often been discovered.

Many school buildings have aging infrastructure that is more likely to leach lead into the water. And children are the most vulnerable to the harmful effects of lead poisoning. But despite an increased awareness of the danger posed by lead in water, there is no national mandate that requires testing drinking water in schools and child-care facilities. As of 2021, a report found that only 18 states and the District of Columbia had some kind of requirement for school testing.

Lead is one of the most common and best-known contaminants found in drinking water, particularly in cities where pipes made of the substance were not widely phased out until a 1986 ban. While some cities have embarked on massive programs to replace lead pipes that connect to homes and businesses, there has been less attention on schools.

Experts and advocates said that by not solving the problem of lead in drinking water in schools, government has failed at a core responsibility: providing its most vulnerable citizens with clean, safe drinking water.

“Schools are places for learning and not places for kids to end up with a substance that is going to damage their ability to learn and grow,” said Cyndi Roper, a Michigan-based senior policy advocate at the Natural Resources Defense Council, an environmental advocacy group. “We can do better. We must do better.”

Still, the Environmental Protection Agency is expected to release a new rule in October requiring utilities to test at all the elementary and child-care facilities they serve and offering to test at middle and high schools within the first five years. The rule would not require schools to fix the water if the testing reveals elevated lead levels in it, said Bruno Pigott, the acting assistant administrator for the EPA’s Office of Water, who said federal law does not give the agency authority to order schools and child-care facilities to clean up their water unless they have their own water systems.

After the high lead levels were discovered in 2016, East Ramapo Central School District shut down taps in all of its schools. Some water fountains were covered up with trash bags and tape. Children began bringing water bottles from home, and standing jugs of filtered water were placed in hallways along with cone-shaped paper cups for drinking.

Eight years later, the district has still not fixed its taps. Harry Grossman, a former school board member who retired in June after 10 years on the board, said the district did not have enough money to fix them and instead provided bottled water.

Anthony DiCarlo, who became superintendent of the East Ramapo Central School District in July, said that he plans to make “the health and well-being” of the school community his “first priority.” He said 18 lead-free water fountains and bottle filling stations are now being installed for the coming school year.

But the public school community has been skeptical; families said they have been told for years that the taps would get fixed. And many worry the damage from lead has already been done to their children.

“Ultimately, I don’t know if the lead affected my brain,” said Broncano, 23. “I don’t know the damage the school has done to me, and unfortunately I don’t think I’ll ever fully know.”

Setting children up for success

Long-term lead consumption can have debilitating and lifelong effects on children, including brain and nervous system damage; slow development; and hearing, speech and behavior issues, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Lead exposure also poses risks during pregnancy because the highly toxic contaminant can pass from mother to fetus, seeping into the placenta and the fetus’s growing bones and teeth, permanently affecting development.

Depending on state law, children are typically checked for blood lead levels at 1 and sometimes at 2 years old at annual doctor’s checkups but not afterward. But blood tests don’t always tell the whole story: Because lead moves from blood into the bones within weeks, blood tests can identify recent lead exposure but not long-term damage.

Banku Jairath, a Pennsylvania-based pediatrician who has studied the effects of lead poisoning on children, said too many chil-



PHOTOS BY NATALIE KEYSSAR FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

In Ramapo, N.Y., water at public schools was found to contain dangerously high levels of lead. The experience of students there has been shared by children nationwide.

dren suffer from the effects of lead. She pointed to a 2009 study that showed 20 percent of ADHD cases in U.S. children can be attributed to lead poisoning. In Flint, where roughly 100,000 residents were exposed to lead-contaminated water, a study published this year found an increase in special needs and decrease in math achievement in the children following the lead-tainted water scandal, as compared with similar children in other Michigan schools.

Health and environmental experts say fixing the water in schools is one of the most efficient solutions to lowering the dangers of lead. The water in one school building can affect hundreds or thousands of children, the segment of the U.S. population that is the most vulnerable to lead poisoning, in a place where they spend a significant amount of time as they grow up.

In Chicago, a study published in March found that more than two-thirds of children under 6 years old are exposed to lead in their drinking water. And in New Jersey, more than 2,800 children under 6 had blood lead levels above the state standard in 2022.

Lead seeps into water from pipes, plumbing and fixtures made at least in part of lead. The more corrosive the water, the more likely that it will erode the pipes, picking up more lead from them.

In 1986, Congress amended the Safe Drinking Water Act to ban the use of lead pipes in further construction but did not require that lead pipes be replaced, leaving many existing homes and buildings vulnerable to toxic water. Studies show the communities that bear the brunt of lead-filled water are disproportionately low-income and non-White, concluding that the distribution of lead in drinking water is a product of systemic racism.

Two years later, Congress mandated that states set up lead testing and remediation programs for schools, but the NRDC soon concluded that few states were complying and fewer than 1 percent of child-care facilities had tested their water. The mandate was found to be unconstitutional by a federal appeals court in 1996.

Congress has subsequently considered adopting a requirement but instead passed legislation that included only funding for voluntary testing of school water.

The Biden administration last year proposed replacing all remaining lead pipes in the United States — estimated at more than 9 million pipes — within 10 years, with some exceptions.

But lead service lines, which are a frequent cause of lead-filled water in homes, are often not the main source of lead in school water. In schools, lead often lurks in the building’s plumbing and faucet fixtures, tainting the water long after it leaves the public water utility’s treatment centers.

Despite all of the evidence, encouraging schools to test for lead is often a challenge. Many schools that do test often find lead and face blowback from the

parents and community, disincentivizing testing, said David Masur of PennEnvironment, an arm of the nonprofit and advocacy group Environment America.

A Government Accountability Office report from 2018 found only 43 percent of school districts across the country had tested for lead in their water in the previous two years.

When Houston tested every school last year, the school district’s contractor found nearly a third had water samples with above 15 ppb lead.

In New York, testing found that 82 percent of New York schools had at least one tap containing 15 ppb lead or more, which is considered a dangerously high amount that requires treatment, according to a 2018 NRDC analysis.

In North Carolina, a testing effort from 2020 to 2021 of more than 4,000 child-care facilities in the state found some child-care centers were more likely than others to have positive lead tests

in their water: those with old infrastructure, those that rely on private well water and those that housed Head Start programs — a federal program for underserved children.

The revelations led to a state law last year requiring that schools test their water for lead, too.

“When they’re in school and supposed to be learning, we don’t want the water they’re drinking in school to be contributing to potential cognitive and behavior difficulties,” said Jennifer Hoponick Redmon, a senior environmental health scientist at RTI, a nonprofit research institute that is operating the state’s school testing mandate.

The patchwork of state testing has led some advocates to push instead for a national “filter first” policy, in which initial mass testing is skipped in favor of installing lead-filtering taps in schools en masse. They argue it is the quickest, cheapest way to ensure children get clean water, avoiding

millions spent on testing and replacing plumbing. Michigan became the first state to adopt a filter-first policy in 2023.

“If I could instantly impose a new law and say every state had to take that route, I would do it,” said Jim Elder, a former head of the EPA’s drinking water office, known in the 1990s as the Office of Groundwater and Drinking Water, who believes the EPA should adopt a national testing mandate for schools.

But others worry that filters would not be maintained and periodically replaced, as is necessary for them to be effective. Christina Hecht, a senior policy adviser at the University of California Nutrition Policy Institute, said she also worried a filter-first approach might convince children and their parents to avoid drinking water as dangerous, even when — depending on the severity of the lead level — it may still be a healthier option than carbonated beverages.

Schools that receive federal funds to provide free or reduced-price lunches have been required by the U.S. Department of Agriculture since 2010 to provide “potable water” during meals, but the agency hasn’t addressed lead as part of the requirement. USDA said in a statement that the EPA is in charge of the issue.

The EPA’s new proposal has been met with mixed reaction. While advocates said they were glad the federal government was taking steps to address the issue of water in schools, many said the new rule doesn’t go far enough because it would require testing only once within five years of adoption and only from five taps per school and two at day-care facilities.

“It makes me so upset,” said Danielle Land, a postdoctoral research associate at Michigan State University who studies the issue and works with Mona Hanna-Attisha, a pediatrician who helped expose the Flint crisis. “There’s a lot of loopholes.”

The EPA says it disagrees that sampling requirements should be expanded, saying the program would be designed to be a preliminary, not comprehensive, screening for lead.

East Ramapo

Ana Maeda, a parent chaperone of the East Ramapo Central School District’s marching band, said she was struck by a moment at an April performance for the American Cancer Society in Orangeburg, N.Y. After the performance, a small group of middle and high school students in the band spotted a water fountain. They gathered around it.

“How do you use it?” she remembered one student asking. “Don’t touch it; you’ll break it,” said another. “What do I press?” she remembered a third chiming in.

“They acted like a cave person that just discovered fire,” said Maeda, 30.

Their schools have not had working water fountains for the eight years since lead was found in the water, and the children were unfamiliar with how to use one.

The school district has 9,800 students — 96 percent of them Latino or Black — attending public schools, while an estimated 30,000 other children from an ultra-Orthodox Jewish community attend private religious schools.

Public school parents have complained that parents who send their children to private schools won election to the school board and then starved the district of necessary funds. The school district has a state monitor, but the public school parents and advocacy groups have called for a broader intervention.

Nancy Bermon, a local Jewish resident who has advocated on behalf of the public-school families, called the water situation only one piece of the larger problem. “It’s a symptom of neglect,” she said.

A state-mandated survey of the condition of East Ramapo schools completed last year found that all 13 district schools had water taps that were non-functioning.

Many of the school buildings also don’t have central air conditioning, some parents said, so classrooms can get hot, making it even more important that students stay hydrated. Families described buying water in bulk so their children can take multiple bottles to school at a time, a heavy expense in their budgets. Some said their children had moments of lightheadedness in school, often after gym class when the school jugs were out of water.

“Water seems like such a basic human right,” said Kayla Hoke, 23, who attended the district from first grade through graduation. She said ceiling tiles sometimes fell down during class at schools with worn textbooks and equipment. “When we learned there was lead in the water it was kind of like, ‘Okay, this was bound to happen.’”

Documents show the district is using federal funds to renovate buildings and plans to replace all water fountains, though it is unclear whether the renovations will include lead filters. DiCarlo, who responded to a request for comment after this story was published online, said the district is spending \$1.2 million in federal funds on the drinking water issue and also received a donation of 20 additional lead-free water fountains.

Terry Rodriguez, whose three children attended public schools in the district, said she felt as though she were living “back in the Martin Luther King days.”

“We’re being discriminated against,” she said.

Rodriguez said she was concerned enough over the issue that she had her children’s blood tested for lead several years ago. The tests revealed that her middle child, who is now 18, had elevated lead levels in her blood, though, she said, not so high as to be a serious worry.

“How many years and generations down did this lead problem persist?” Rodriguez said. “How many children actually have lead poisoning in their body and don’t even know it?”

“Ultimately, I don’t know if the lead affected my brain. I don’t know the damage the school has done to me, and unfortunately I don’t think I’ll ever fully know.”

Keyry Broncano, a former East Ramapo Central School District student who discovered in 2016 that the water she had been drinking in school since kindergarten probably contained elevated lead levels



Ana Maeda with daughter Maddieson, 6. Maeda chaperoned an East Ramapo Central School District marching band performance and said some students did not know how to use a water fountain they saw. The district’s fountains have not worked for years.

FBI is probing alleged efforts by Iran to hack campaigns

HACKING FROM AI

of politics in the digital age. U.S. officials concluded that Russia interfered in the 2016 presidential election to help Donald Trump, including by hacking and releasing internal emails and documents from Democrats.

"We can confirm the FBI is investigating this matter," the agency said in a brief statement. On Saturday, the FBI said only that it was aware of media reports of an alleged hack. The Trump campaign said it had been hacked after reporters received copies of an internal campaign vetting document on Sen. JD Vance (R-Ohio), Trump's running mate.

An official with the Harris campaign said it "vigilantly monitors and protects against cyberthreats, and we are not aware of any security breaches of our systems." The attempted intrusion took place before President Joe Biden announced that he would not stand for reelection and endorsed Vice President Kamala Harris, now the Democratic nominee.

While the FBI suspects Iran is behind the phishing attempts that were tracked in June, it is less clear to investigators whether the nation is also responsible for the sending of internal campaign data to reporters, according to people familiar with the matter. The Washington Post and Politico have both reported they were contacted by a person claiming to have access to internal Trump campaign documents who used an AOL account and the name "Robert." The Trump campaign has blamed Iran for those leaks.

The FBI investigation raises the stakes for both the presidential contest, already rife with accusations of dirty tricks and election interference, and the government's credibility in assuring a fair election.

When the Trump campaign initially concluded it had been hacked, it did not alert the FBI, according to campaign advisers. The decision not to alert the FBI was made partially because of the campaign's distrust of the agency, the people said.

Trump, who blamed Democrats for poor information security when they were hacked in



JOE LAMBERTI FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

A Trump campaign event in Philadelphia in June. The FBI's hacking investigation raises the stakes for the presidential race, already rife with accusations of dirty tricks.

2016, has expressed frustration over the hack, these people said.

People familiar with the matter said the phishing attempt appears to have succeeded in compromising the communications of at least one person not formally connected to either campaign: Roger Stone, a longtime friend and adviser to Trump.

"I was informed by the authorities that a couple of my personal email accounts have been compromised," Stone said in a brief interview. "I really don't know more about it. And I'm cooperating. It's all very strange."

Stone's account was used to send emails to the Trump campaign containing a link that, if clicked, could have allowed Iran to intercept the target's other

emails, the people familiar with the matter said.

That Stone was an apparent victim in the effort is remarkable given his long, tangled history with hacked emails. Stone was convicted of seven felonies, including lying about his attempts during the 2016 presidential campaign to get details of Hillary Clinton's private emails from the anti-secrecy group WikiLeaks. Trump pardoned him in 2020 a month before he left office.

The Trump campaign did not respond to questions about the FBI's investigation, but on Saturday spokesman Steven Cheung said the documents received by reporters "were obtained illegally from foreign sources hostile to the United States, intended to

interfere with the 2024 election and sow chaos throughout our Democratic process."

A Trump adviser said additional measures, designed by outside consultants, were now being taken to secure emails. Staff members have also been instructed not to put any sensitive documents or information in emails, given that the campaign believes multiple foreign countries are trying to hack them, this person said.

Last week, Microsoft issued a public report warning that Iranian hackers had tried to break into the email account of a "high-ranking official" on a U.S. presidential campaign in June. The company did not publicly identify the campaign or confirm whether

it believed the hack had been successful, but a person familiar with Microsoft's work confirmed that the report's reference was to the Trump campaign.

While that evidence is part of what is being investigated by the FBI, it's now clear that agents are pursuing a larger set of alleged hacking attempts than what the Microsoft report describes.

Over the weekend, a spokesman for Iran's permanent mission to the United Nations issued a statement dismissing the allegations of such hacking, saying: "We do not accord any credence to such reports. The Iranian Government neither possesses nor harbors any intent or motive to interfere in the United States presidential election."

U.S. intelligence officials said in July that Iran is working to stoke societal discord in the United States and undermine Trump's bid to regain the White House, a repeat of Iranian efforts in 2020.

Prosecutors in New York last month also charged a Pakistani man with ties to Iran in a murder-for-hire plot to assassinate a politician or U.S. government official on American soil. The alleged Iranian-backed plot, however, had raised concerns about Trump's safety in the weeks before the apparently unrelated attempt on his life at a July rally, according to U.S. officials familiar with the investigation who spoke on the condition of anonymity to describe internal discussions.



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Death Valley residents face dangers of rising temperatures

DEATH VALLEY FROM AI

the most sweltering ever recorded, with an average temperature of 108.5 degrees, a figure that includes overnight lows, which rarely dipped below 95. For a punishing nine consecutive days, the mercury hit 125 or higher.

Six of Death Valley's hottest summers have come during the past decade, and as the climate continues to warm worldwide, the region's recent record-setting month could be a postcard from the future.

A few hundred people live here year-round, scattered across a constellation of desert communities that border the national park and also sport apropos names like Furnace Creek and Stovepipe Wells. And while the locals never expected the living in this extreme environment to be easy, the increasingly wild weather swings — from drought to flood to suffocating heat — have some questioning just how long they'll be able to stick it out.

"This hits disadvantaged rural communities hard," said Patrick Donnelly, who lives a few miles north of Tecopa in Shoshone and works as the Great Basin director for the Center for Biological Diversity. "It feels like we're hanging on by our fingernails here, getting whipped around by all these extremes."

'Relentless'

Heat is the leading cause of weather-related deaths in the United States, and it is especially lethal in Death Valley. Local governments issue advisories, and park bulletin boards are covered in dire warnings like "HEAT KILLS!" and "Don't become a Death Valley victim." For those who choose to proceed anyway, a final reminder: "Travel prepared to survive."

"It is a shocking physical experience to be in that heat," said Alexandra Heaney, a public health professor at the University of California at San Diego. "You walk outside and you feel like you're in a convection oven."

Fatalities get the most attention, but the heat poses a wide range of health risks, Heaney said. In a working paper, she and her colleagues found that increased temperatures lead to a spike in emergency room visits stemming from a range of causes, including accidental injuries, mental health conditions and nervous system problems. And in Death Valley, where the closest hospital can be more than 60 miles away, health-care access is tricky.

Those who work outside in this sort of weather — like Brown and his crew at China Ranch — have to be careful. And a little creative. Brown has endured 45 summers here and has amassed a few tricks to get through this time of year, when the farm's 25 acres of date palms need meticulous tending.

The crew starts early, around 6 a.m., and they douse their work shirts in a bucket of water to keep cool. When the arid heat dries them out, they return to the bucket. The extra layer of fabric also defends against the area's notorious biting horseflies, known as Tecopa bombers, that swarm during the summer.

When water's not enough, they take refuge in the nearby warehouse's large walk-in refrigerator, normally used for storing dates. "This is our favorite place to be," Brown said, standing in the fridge on a recent scorching afternoon.

Other methods are mental. After the solstice, for example, Brown reminds his team that every subsequent day will get a little shorter. By the end of July, they were two-thirds through the peak summer months, when the sun shines hottest and longest — almost there.

The heat has forced the region's firefighters to the front lines, responding to emergencies prompted by the heat and dealing with it themselves.

The poorly funded Southern Inyo Fire Protection District covers about 1,250 square miles, relies on a handful of aging volunteers and has no fire station. That means vehicles and equipment are constantly exposed to the elements, wearing out even when parked and idle, said Larry Levy, the department's interim chief.

The sun bakes hoses, shreds tires and melts medical bandages. The heat makes everything harder and more taxing, from firefighting to first aid.

"You couldn't do CPR in that heat for more than a minute or two before you need CPR yourself," said Levy, who at 72 has already retired once and is looking for someone to replace him as chief.

Levy has lived with his wife in Tecopa year-round for about two decades, and sometimes he feels like they're still trying to adapt. Their daily rhythm changes in the summer. They take long indoor siestas and soak in a natural hot



PHOTOS BY BRIDGET BENNETT FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: Visitors at Badwater Basin in Death Valley National Park, Calif. An air-conditioning unit sits in the window of the hotel lobby at the Amargosa Opera House. Mandi Campbell, tribal historic preservation officer for the Timbisha Shoshone, said the inside of the trailer where she lives can get up to 100 degrees. "We've lived here all our lives. You really need to be careful in the summer," she said.

spring, which feels comparatively cool when the air is stifling. In the mornings, Levy adds electrolytes to his water, and in the afternoon, he sips grapefruit juice.

One of his neighbors, John Muccio, is a retired chef, and when the weather turns torrid, he feels his appetite change. The recipe that got him through July: watermelon salad, with cucumber, fresh mint and a sprinkle of feta, topped with some olive oil and scallion greens.

Like many, Muccio ditched central air conditioning after spending thousands on electricity bills, and now he relies on an evaporative swamp cooler to keep his double-wide prefab home at a tolerable temp. But his most foolproof method of beating the heat is escape. Once a week, he drives the 90 miles to Las Vegas to play poker in

a casino, where the aggressive AC is free.

"Every year it's going to get hotter and hotter," said Muccio, who moved to Tecopa in 2006. "It'll be very interesting to see in the next decade or two whether people can even still live in places like this."

Death Valley rangers, most of whom live in National Park Service housing near the park, have devised their own strategies for coping. Cold water is rare in the summer, since even the underground pipes overheat.

Abby Wines, a ranger who has worked at the park for 19 years, once measured the water from her supposedly cold tap at 108 degrees. To get a little relief, she turns off her hot water heater and the tank becomes a reservoir that eventually cools to room temperature. She savors the first 45 sec-

onds of a shower, when the water is as brisk as it'll get.

"Relentless is the only word I can come up with to describe the heat," Wines said.

'Valley of Change'

Just one year ago, the region saw its wettest day ever, when Hurricane Hilary dumped over 2 inches of rain, more than typically falls here during an entire year. Months later, an atmospheric river soaked the region further. The unusual events led to a pair of extraordinary natural phenomena: a reappearance of the ancient Lake Manly and a desert super bloom.

But the storms also wrought havoc, destroying miles of road and making life harder for the businesses already struggling to scratch out a living in such a harsh

climate. At the Amargosa Opera House and Hotel in Death Valley Junction, a ghost town north of Tecopa, the hurricane and heat have landed like a one-two punch.

First, flooding inflicted at least \$25,000 in damage, the property's managers estimated, ruining walls, carpet and floors. Then the heat dried up the stream of visitors whom the still-operating hotel relies on to keep its doors open.

A nonprofit now runs the opera house, which is dedicated to preserving the history and artwork of its eccentric founder, Marta Beckena: a reappearance of the ancient Lake Manly and a desert super bloom.

"It's a challenge just to keep day-to-day operations going," said Emilee Brown, the hotel manager, who technically lives just over the Nevada state line but is on-site so

much she's considered one of the town's two residents. "You fix one issue and then you find three more. And then you fix those and the monsoons come, or tourism slows down."

No one has battled the elements here more than the Timbisha Shoshone. The tribe has lived in the region for thousands of years, historically moving from the valley to the mountains and back to survive the summer months. When the federal government seized the tribe's ancestral homeland to establish a national monument in the 1930s, members fought for the right to stay, eventually winning a small reservation plot inside what is now Death Valley National Park.

Now some 30 Timbisha members live here full time, taking only short trips to higher elevations, where they don't keep homes. Many are in their 60s or older, and most reside in trailers that are ill-equipped for the harsh conditions. Mandi Campbell, the tribe's historic preservation officer, said the inside of hers can get up to 100 degrees. Some of the trailers are hand-me-downs from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, which used them in disaster recovery efforts, Campbell said. The desert easily creeps inside.

"You're constantly cleaning," she said, "and you can taste the sand inside your home."

Members hope that a tribal casino, planned for a nearby city, will eventually bring in enough income to pay for sturdier housing. For Campbell, the heat isn't something to cross off a bucket list — it's a dangerous, daily challenge.

"It's really nothing to play with," she said. "We've lived here all our lives. You really need to be careful in the summer."

Climate change has also imperiled eons-old Timbisha practices centered on pinyon and honey mesquite trees that are drying up and dying out. Still, the Timbisha will stay, Campbell said, because it's home. And anyway, those who experience the place only when it's at its least hospitable get the wrong idea, she said.

"It shouldn't be Death Valley, because it's nothing like death," she said. "To us, it's 'Valley of Change.'"

This year especially.



Austin Smith, left, and Keshav Boddula wrap dates during a work day at China Ranch Date Farm in Tecopa, Calif.

Trump returns to X with technical glitches, friendly questions from Musk

This article is by Marianne LeVine, Faiz Siddiqui, Hannah Knowles, Trisha Thadani and Drew Harwell

Donald Trump's much anticipated conversation on the social media platform X with owner Elon Musk was marred by technical errors Monday evening, starting more than 40 minutes late as more than a million users tuned in to the event. It was the latest mishap for the Republican nominee as he has sought to regain his footing amid a surge in Democratic enthusiasm for his new rival, Vice President Kamala Harris.

The joint appearance was also a high-profile embarrassment for Musk's X, which has faced numerous outages since the entrepreneur's takeover and suffered from a server meltdown during a presidential campaign launch last year.

Musk billed the conversation with Trump as "unscripted with no limits on subject matter." But during much of the discussion, he focused on comfortable topics for Trump, such as undocumented immigration. He also allowed the former president to deliver his preferred talking points and a stream of false statements, giving the chat some of the hallmarks of Trump's signature campaign rallies.

The friendly conversation came after Trump reacted combatively to challenging questions at the National Association of Black Journalists convention — and as the GOP nominee is also attacking Harris for not doing interviews since she announced her campaign for president. Trump reiterated that criticism of Harris on the X Space and repeated his frequent claim that Harris's rise to the top of the Democratic ticket amounted to a "coup."

Musk opened the Spaces apologizing for the delay, saying that "we unfortunately had a massive distributed denial of service" attack on the site that "saturated all our data lines." He did not immediately provide evidence for his claim. "As this massive attack illustrates, there's a lot of opposition to people just hearing what President Trump has to say," he said.

Some engineers said it didn't make sense that the rest of X was

functioning well while users struggled to access the stream. Distributed denial of service attacks often look like an excess of regular traffic. With millions of people expected to listen in, ordinary traffic would have been high, and one way to prepare, adding bandwidth capacity, would also absorb most DDoS attacks.

An X adviser in a position to know said he saw no evidence of an attack but cautioned that he could not immediately rule out a stealthier offensive. The person spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss internal company matters.

At the start of their discussion, Musk said he was honored to speak with Trump, who congratulated Musk on "breaking every record in the book tonight," seeking to spin the technical glitches positively.

Much of Trump's interview with Musk echoed his previous speeches, including attacking Harris on immigration and touting his relationships with Russian President Vladimir Putin and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. He added that "the people from within" the United States often pose a bigger threat than those countries.

When Musk criticized undocumented immigration but said he believes most unauthorized migrants are not "bad," Trump responded in agreement: "Hundred percent." Yet the Republican nominee has vilified undocumented immigrants throughout his campaign, saying without evidence that countries around the world are emptying their jails and mental institutions to send people into the United States en masse. Trump repeated those unsubstantiated claims on Monday night.

At one point, Trump reiterated his assertion that a chart on immigration numbers had saved his life — because Trump was looking toward it when a gunman tried to assassinate him. Trump was grazed but not seriously injured. "Illegal immigration saved my life," Trump joked on Monday. He and Musk chuckled.

Musk, who endorsed Trump after the attempted assassination, praised Trump's in-the-moment response. "You can't fake bravery under such circum-



An iPhone shows people waiting for the X Space hosted by former president Donald Trump and X owner Elon Musk.

stances. ... I think a lot of people admire your courage under fire there," Musk told Trump.

Trump also repeated his hope to shut down the Education Department, a longtime goal for some conservatives. He said he wants to "move education back to the states" but conceded that "not every state will do great." He predicted that maybe 35 of them would "do great."

The former president's speech during the interview sounded different from his usual delivery, drawing the attention of many social media users and an attack from Harris's campaign. Some on social media said it sounded like he was slurring his words. The Trump campaign did not immediately respond to a request for an explanation.

Trump has been trying different ways to break through with the electorate at a challenging moment for his campaign. With President Joe Biden in the race earlier this year, polls showed Trump leading in several key battleground states. But after Biden's withdrawal and his endorsement of Harris, Democrats have quickly coalesced around her newly formed ticket with Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz. The two have drawn big crowds, and polls have shown them gaining ground.

In the reshaped race, Trump has struggled to settle on a line of attack against Harris, trying a range of insults and inaccurate claims. He has drawn headlines for falsely questioning her heri-

tage, reigniting a feud with Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp (R) and holding a meandering news conference last week.

During Monday's conversation, Trump portrayed Harris as the "border czar" (Though Biden asked Harris to negotiate with Central American countries to help address the root causes of migration, he never put her in charge of border policy) and criticized her limited access to questions from the press. He continued to mispronounce Harris's first name, a move critics have suggested is an attempt to "other" her, and suggested she would be unable to negotiate with world leaders.

After Trump downplayed the threat of global warming, Musk addressed the issue of climate change minutes later, saying efforts to address it should happen without "demonizing people." "It's not like the house is on fire immediately," Musk said.

Some research has predicted catastrophic levels of climate change in less than a decade if countries do not significantly reduce their pollution. Trump suggested to Musk that he feels little urgency to curb fossil fuel use and speculated that the world has "100 to 500 years left."

Trump made a flurry of posts on X earlier in the day ahead of the interview, reviving a social media account that was central to his 2016 election and turbulent presidency but had been dormant. For years, Trump used Twitter as his primary mega-

phone as he railed against undocumented immigrants, the results of the 2020 election and virtually anyone who crossed him.

Trump had been banned from the site, then called Twitter, after the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection. Musk restored Trump's account about a month after purchasing the site in 2022, but Trump largely stayed off the platform in favor of Truth Social, a similar platform in which he owns a majority stake. His postings on Truth Social haven't garnered the same attention that his tweets once did.

The conversation gave the former president a much greater audience than he reaches on Truth Social and adds to the entrepreneur's recent efforts to use his platform to sway the election. But the site repeatedly crashed as users attempted to access an audio conversation streamed using X's Spaces feature, complicating efforts to maximize the event's reach.

As hundreds of thousands of users initially waited for the event to start, Musk claimed a "massive DDoS attack on X" was to blame for the delay.

Monday night's technical problems echo an episode last year when Musk's site crashed repeatedly as Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis attempted to launch his presidential campaign using the platform. Musk had previously said he was making preparations to avert a similar outcome this time around.

Still, the revival of Trump's account potentially heralds a new era for the former president's campaign. It's unclear whether or how much Trump will continue using Musk's platform, but in a campaign email Monday, the former president stated: "I'm back on X for a short time." A permanent return to the platform by Trump would be a major win for Musk, who has begun to more actively court a right-wing audience to his platform.

Trump could also widen his audience by shifting to the larger platform, where he has more than 88 million followers compared with only 7.5 million on Truth Social. The same campaign ad posted around the same time on both platforms Monday attracted 172,000 likes on X within two hours, compared with fewer

than 9,000 on Truth Social.

Trump's posts came hours before the interview streamed on X. No leader of a major social media site has actively used their platform to support a presidential candidate, an unprecedented dynamic that has raised alarm among some Democrats, who have accused Musk of tilting X in favor of the former president.

A representative for the Harris campaign did not immediately respond to a request for comment about whether the candidate was offered a similar opportunity to appear on X. In response to a post last week speculating about whether Harris would agree to a similar interview with Musk, he replied, "I'm open to it."

On Monday, Rep. Jerry Nadler (D-N.Y.) sent a letter to House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jim Jordan (R-Ohio) to investigate claims of bias on the platform. A handful of pro-Harris accounts have been labeled as spam or restricted in recent weeks. "Egregious falsehoods and conspiracy theories are becoming commonplace on X," Nadler wrote. "While we may have significant disagreement over the degree and extent of content moderation, I hope that we can at least agree that enforcement on a major platform like X should be fair to both sides."

Also on Monday, a top European Union official pointedly warned Musk that his live broadcast with Trump would be subject to the bloc's sweeping social media law. European Commissioner Thierry Breton in a letter citing the E.U.'s Digital Services Act, directed Musk to take measures to address "the amplification of harmful content," or face action to "protect E.U. citizens from serious harm."

X CEO Linda Yaccarino immediately criticized the letter, suggesting that it "patronizes" European citizens and was an "unprecedented attempt to stretch a law intended to apply in Europe to political activities in the U.S." Musk later responded with a profane recommendation for the European Union.

Musk, X and the Trump campaign did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Cat Zakrzewski and Joseph Menn contributed to this report.



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ELECTION 2024

Sharp questions, viral moments defined Harris in Senate

HARRIS FROM A1

her courtroom-tested rhetorical skills to lambaste Trump and his administration officials, to the annoyance of some of her GOP colleagues in the upper chamber.

In the minority throughout her tenure, Harris had a liberal voting record and did not play a key role in any major legislation that was signed into law. Instead, she channeled the left's anger at the Trump administration from her perch on several powerful Senate committees, creating a reputation as a sharp questioner that fueled her own presidential campaign to unseat him in 2020.

Now running for president again, Harris is backing away from some of the more liberal positions she staked out as a senator at a time when the Democratic base was reshaping itself in opposition to Trump. But the message and communications skills she honed in the Senate, as well as the relationships she forged with fellow Democratic senators who have speedily rallied around her candidacy, are helping to power the vice president's current bid to defeat Trump.

"Throughout her entire career, Vice President Harris has fought for working families and taken on special interests — and won. That includes in the Senate where she worked across the aisle to both pass legislation and conduct critical national security investigations," a Harris spokesperson said in a statement.

'A force from Day One'

On election night in 2016, Harris had expected to become the first Black senator from deep-blue California serving alongside the nation's first female president in Hillary Clinton. Instead, Trump upended polling predictions and won, and shocked liberals were clamoring for public officials to serve as a check on him.

In January 2017, Harris delivered a speech to hundreds of thousands of people at the women's march on the National Mall, telling the pink-hatted women to



JAH CHIKWENDIU/THE WASHINGTON POST

Then-Sen. Kamala Harris (D-Calif.) questions Attorney General William P. Barr at a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing in 2019. During her four years in the Senate, Harris was known for her liberal voting record and grilling of Trump administration officials.

"buckle up" and prepare to fight, a message echoed in her 2024 presidential bid.

"She won ... and just came in at a time when we really needed a bright spot, and she was it," said Sen. Patty Murray (D-Wash.), who forged a friendship with Harris.

The political atmosphere was "intense," recalled Sen. Laphonza Butler (D-Calif.), who advised Harris's first presidential campaign. People were trying to figure out what the newly elected president, who had vowed to ban Muslims from entering the country and to conduct mass deportations of undocumented immigrants, was going to do.

In part because of the weight of the moment, Harris ignored one of many unspoken rules of the formal and genteel Senate: that freshman senators should keep their heads down, speak little and tread carefully.

Harris was better known nationally and more polished than your average new senator, and she walked the Senate halls flanked by high-profile aides fresh off Clinton's 2016 run who now staffed Harris's Senate office. Many who observed the first-terms during that time believed that Harris was probably headed for a presidential race of her own.

The Californian landed a spot

on the Senate Intelligence Committee, which almost immediately launched a bipartisan investigation into Russia's influence on the 2016 election.

"She was a force from Day One," said Sen. Ron Wyden (D-Ore.), who served on the committee with Harris.

Still, some of Harris's Republican colleagues said they saw her as a "short timer" who was just there to run for president — an attack that was also lobbed at Barack Obama when he served in the chamber.

Her maiden speech in February 2017 defended immigrants from Trump's early executive actions, including the "Muslim ban" and directive to build a border wall. "I have personally prosecuted everything from low-level offenses to homicides," Harris said. "I know what a crime looks like. I will tell you: An undocumented immigrant is not a criminal."

Harris spearheaded a law aimed at improving how the government counts victims of national disasters. With Sens. Tim Scott (R-S.C.) and Cory Booker (D-N.J.), she worked on a bipartisan bill to make lynching a crime that passed the Senate, although the House did not move on it. Later, when Harris was vice president, both chambers passed a similar bill that became law.

Harris signed onto messaging legislation doomed to fail in the GOP-controlled Senate, including co-sponsoring a Medicare-for-all bill introduced by Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) that was popular with the Democratic Party's base. (She later said she was not in favor of that policy.) GovTrack listed her as the fourth-most liberal senator from 2017 to 2019, based on a number of factors including the bills she co-sponsored, and the second-most liberal from 2019 to 2021.

Some GOP senators said that there was no evidence Harris wanted to work across the aisle and that instead she had her eye firmly on the White House. Sen. Thom Tillis (R-N.C.) said he scheduled a meeting with Harris when she first arrived to see if they could find issues on which they could work together. He thought criminal justice reform in particular was a possibility.

"But frankly, I got the impression she was there to run for president," he said of the meeting, which he described as wholly unproductive. "She just didn't seem interested in legislating."

Their meeting took place before the anti-lynching bill Harris authored passed the Senate by unanimous consent in February 2019.

Sen. John Cornyn (R-Tex.) agreed. "She wasn't here long enough to make many memories," Cornyn said. "Kind of a drive-by."

A Harris campaign spokesperson pointed to her work on natural disasters, and to a bipartisan piece of the larger covid relief bill she co-authored to provide billions to minority-owned and community banks and lending institutions, as evidence that she "repeatedly worked with leaders from both parties to deliver real results for the American people in the Senate."

A junior senator speaks up

Harris made her name not through bills but with telegenic interrogations of Trump officials.

She stumped Attorney General William P. Barr in a 2019 Judiciary Committee hearing when she asked him whether the president or others at the White House had ever asked or suggested he open an investigation into anyone.

"I'm trying to grapple with the word 'suggest,'" Barr replied.

"Perhaps they suggested? Hinted? Inferred? You don't know? Okay," Harris said, her voice dripping with disdain. She also grilled him for not reviewing the underlying evidence of the Mueller report before deciding against bringing an obstruction-of-justice charge against Trump.

On the Judiciary Committee, where senators are seated by seniority, Harris sat at the outer edge of the dais with two other relative newcomers to the prestigious panel — Booker and Sen. Mazie Hirono (D-Hawaii).

"The three of us were the 'POCs,' as she described us — people of color," Hirono recalled, saying they all had a "rapport." "Somebody said to us once, did they make them all sit together like that?"

It was difficult for more junior senators to make news in these hearings because by the time it was their turn to ask questions, their senior colleagues had already pursued many of the more obvious and provocative lines of inquiry. Harris managed to overcome that challenge, in part by leveraging her skills as a prosecutor and being willing to tear up and change her prepared line of questioning as the hearing progressed, according to her former Senate aides.

"She saw her questions very much as a living document, and she'd scratch and scribe and revise her wording," one aide said.

Harris would rigorously prepare for hearings with her legislative team and counsel. A few days before the September 2018 confirmation hearing for Supreme Court nominee Brett M. Kavanaugh, the senator added a few former Supreme Court clerks to her preparation session. The team started working through a line of questioning related to *Roe v. Wade*, her former chief of staff Nathan Barankin recalled, when Harris suddenly interjected with her own question.

"Can you name for me a single case where the court has dictated what a man can or can't do with his body?" Harris asked the group of aides, according to Barankin. He recalled, "The room is just dead quiet."

The former Supreme Court clerks couldn't think of a case, so she decided to lob the question she came up with at Kavanaugh during the hearing.

"I'm not aware — I'm not — thinking of any right now, senator," Kavanaugh said.

"I used to really enjoy when it was her turn," Hirono said with a laugh.

Harris's reputation as a tough questioner left an impression on Trump, who recently agreed to debate her on Sept. 10.

When Biden picked her to be his running mate in 2020, Trump said she had been "extraordinari-

ly nasty" and "horrible" to Kavanaugh. "And I won't forget that soon," Trump added.

'Come correct'

Harris faced a difficult adjustment period in the Senate as a prosecutor who had never served in a legislative body, according to former Senate aides, and held herself to a sky-high standard of preparation that was difficult to meet on the countless issues and bills facing senators every day.

"It was clear that her mind worked much more like an executive's than a legislator's," said one former aide, adding that she was good at weighing information and making decisions. "But there's a lot of wasted time in Congress, and that I think she was not in love with."

Harris also had strong convictions about what the government should do, that person added, "but her passion is not running that through the lens of the appropriations process."

Still, aides and senators remember spotting her spending more time than most freshman senators on the Senate floor. She wanted to "learn all the arcane procedural rules," recalled Senate Majority Leader Charles E. Schumer (D-N.Y.).

Harris was known as a warm but demanding boss who could get frustrated if she thought her staff had not prepared her well, according to three former Senate aides. Aides who were charged with prepping her were held to an extremely high standard, former staffers said, and Harris would not mince words if she thought they had not done a good job.

"I worked for her for almost a decade, and I learned my lesson very early — come correct or don't come at all," Barankin said.

One oasis of calm for Harris was the Intelligence Committee, which Schumer said he suggested Harris serve on because of her background as a prosecutor.

She earned the trust of her Republican colleagues there. One Republican senator noted that Harris never talked publicly about the Russia investigation or misconstrued its findings, which became a flaming-hot partisan issue.

"Frankly, I'd sleep fine at night," a Republican former senator said of Harris if she wins in the fall. "If she was president, she could make the tough decisions."

Her time on the committee consuming classified intelligence and working on the bipartisan Russia investigation, which took 3½ years, still shapes her today, according to an aide to the vice president.

"You've seen her speak a lot about the importance of uniting our country. It rests in the recognition that she understood through this investigation that our adversaries seek to exploit our divisions," the aide said.

Higher office

Harris had some confidants in the Senate — notably Booker, Murray and Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto (D-Nev.), a former prosecutor who was on a team that helped Harris vet her vice-presidential contenders.

Harris decided to run for president at the end of 2018, nearly two years into her Senate term. That pitted her against at least four other Senate Democrats also thinking about running.

"I mean, it was both awkward and kind of normal," Barankin recalled. "My sense of the feeling at the time was like, this is a natural outgrowth of what it is to be in the U.S. Senate. We're all competing for one job, not everyone can have it, but it's not like we're enemies."

Harris joked to Hirono in September 2019 that she was "f--ing moving to Iowa," in a conversation she didn't realize had been overheard by a reporter. The campaign took her away from the Senate for stretches that year.

Now as vice president, Harris does not play the same role Biden did in the Obama White House, of being a constant conduit for senators to express their concerns and requests to the administration.

Still, her relationships have deepened. She has invited female senators over to her residence since she became vice president, which several described as a bonding experience. At the first bipartisan gathering, she made cheese puffs and later gave the women the recipe, Hirono said.

"To me it was clear she was going to ... blossom in a way that would present her with opportunities that she couldn't even at that point ... fully understand yet," Booker said.

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THE WORLD



ANGELOS TZORTZINIS/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

A man gets into his car to evacuate amid a wildfire in Dione, Greece, as flames rise behind him. Residents of several areas around Athens received a flurry of emergency alerts urging them to leave their homes.

'Exceptionally dangerous' wildfire rages near Athens

Greek authorities order mass evacuations in more than a dozen areas, spanning several suburbs of the capital, as flames reach as high as 80 feet

BY ANNABELLE TIMSIT
AND MORGAN COATES

An "exceptionally dangerous" wildfire — with flames that have reached as high as 80 feet — is burning around Athens in the height of Greece's tourist season, forcing mass evacuations, authorities said.

Hundreds of firefighters are working to control the devastating blaze that has raced through forests, carried by strong winds over land left particularly dry by the heat waves that have scorched Southern Europe this summer. Greece has experienced one of its hottest and driest summers on record, according to the Hellenic National Meteorological Service.

The fire, which began Sunday, is "exceptionally dangerous," Greek Climate Crisis and Civil Protection Minister Vassilis Kikilias said, according to the Associated Press.

Kikilias said Monday that the fire was burning on two main fronts, and that parts of the fire were in dense forest areas that were difficult to access. He said emergency personnel had "been fighting for more than 20 hours under dramatic circumstances."

Residents of over a dozen areas, including several suburbs of Athens, received a flurry of emergency alerts urging them to leave their homes for areas not in the path of the fire. The evacuation orders covered Nea Penteli, a



STELIOS MISINAS/REUTERS



ALEXANDROS AVRAMIDIS/REUTERS

LEFT: Marina Kalogerakou, right, hugs her aunt Eleonora Zoakou in Penteli, outside Athens. ABOVE: A firefighter tries to extinguish a wildfire in Dionysos, Greece. The devastating blazes have raced through Greek forests after heat waves that scorched Southern Europe this summer. While wildfires are common in Greece this time of year, they are becoming more frequent and intense as the weather gets hotter and drier because of climate change.

municipality about eight miles north of Athens.

Greek police said they helped 250 people leave dangerous areas and urged residents of at-risk areas to follow evacuation orders and not return until given the all-clear. A children's hospital, a military hospital, two monasteries and a children's home were evacuated early Monday, the Associated Press reported. Authorities set up shelters overnight for

those forced to leave their homes. Some 27 teams of wildfire specialists and 670 firefighters were deployed to try to contain the flames using over 180 firefighting vehicles and 32 aircraft, Kikilias said. Two firefighters were slightly injured, and 13 others were treated in hospitals for smoke inhalation, fire brigade spokesman Vasilis Vathrakogiannis said.

The flames reached higher

than 25 meters, or more than 80 feet, Vathrakogiannis said in an update Sunday, according to Greek media.

Photos taken in villages and towns in East Attica, a region north of Athens popular with tourists and home to ancient ruins and other historic landmarks, show flames burning through buildings.

Other photos show the Athens sky darkened by faraway flames.

About 380 police officers with 77 vehicles, 36 motorcycles, three buses and four vans were supporting evacuation operations, which were ongoing as of noon local time, police said.

While wildfires are common in Greece this time of year, they are becoming more frequent and intense as the weather gets hotter and drier because of climate change and increasingly threatens the Mediterranean way of

life.

Last year, Greece experienced the largest wildfires ever recorded within the European Union. At least 21 people died, most of them migrants who sought shelter in the Dadia forest in northeastern Greece.

And in 2018, more than 100 people died in wildfires that tore suddenly through the coastal town of Mati, trapping many residents in place.

DIGEST

BRITAIN

Girl, mother stabbed in London hot spot

A man stabbed an 11-year-old girl and her mother in London's bustling theater district on Monday before being arrested, police said. They added that there was no indication that the attack was terrorism-related.

The attack occurred shortly before noon outside a tea shop in Leicester Square, a magnet for tourists with its shops and theaters. Workers from nearby shops ran over to help the victims. Officers arrived within four minutes and arrested the attacker, police said.

"I would like to pay tribute to the members of the public, including staff from local

businesses, who bravely intervened in this incident," Metropolitan Police Detective Chief Superintendent Christina Jessah said. "They ... showed the best of London in doing so."

The girl required medical treatment, but her life was not in danger, police said. Her mother, 34, had less-serious injuries.

The suspect is a 32-year-old man, and police said they don't believe he knew the victims.

The stabbing occurred amid a rise in knife crime in Britain, tense after days of clashes between police and crowds spouting anti-immigrant slogans. The unrest was fueled by right-wing activists spreading misinformation about a stabbing that killed three girls at a Taylor Swift-themed dance event.

— Associated Press

TURKEY

Second round of talks for Ethiopia, Somalia

Turkey on Monday hosted a second round of talks between east African neighbors Ethiopia and Somalia to try to resolve a dispute over Ethiopia's deal with the breakaway region of Somaliland, officials said.

Tensions have simmered since Ethiopia signed a memo of understanding with Somaliland in January. Somalia denounced the move as infringing on its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Under the deal, Somaliland would lease a 12-mile stretch of land along its coastline to Ethiopia to establish a marine force base. With a population

estimated at over 120 million, Ethiopia is the most populous landlocked country in the world.

In return, Ethiopia would recognize Somaliland's independence. Somalia has said it is prepared to go to war over the deal as it considers Somaliland part of its territory. Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan held separate meetings in the Turkish capital, Ankara, with his Ethiopian counterpart, Taye Atske Selassie, and Somalia's Foreign Minister Ahmed Moallim Fiqi, according to the ministry.

Last week, Fidan said he had proposed an arrangement that would ensure Ethiopia's sea access via Somalia. In return, Ethiopia would acknowledge Somalia's territorial integrity and political sovereignty, he said.

On Sunday, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who is vying for increased influence for Turkey in Africa, held separate phone calls with the leaders of Somalia and Ethiopia, encouraging a peaceful resolution, his office said.

— Associated Press

CONGO

ISIS-linked militants kill 12 in North Kivu

Militants allied with the Islamic State militant group in eastern Congo have killed at least 12 people in several villages in North Kivu province, a local official said Monday.

Fighters with the Allied Democratic Forces attacked people in the village of Mukonia

on Saturday, the municipality's mayor, Nicole Kikuku, said on national television. The death toll might be higher because several villagers are still missing, the mayor added.

Attacks by the ADF have increased recently. In June, the group killed at least 40 people in several villages in North Kivu. It is also suspected of being behind a massacre last year in which 41 people, mostly students, were killed in neighboring Uganda.

The eastern portion of the Democratic Republic of Congo has struggled with armed violence for decades as more than 120 groups fight for power, land and mineral resources, while others try to defend their communities. The violence has displaced nearly 7 million people

— Associated Press

Iran weighs its response to Israel as region holds out hope to avoid wider war

IRAN FROM AI

An Israeli official, citing conversations with security officials, said Monday that Israel's latest assessment was that Iran was planning another direct attack and that it could come imminently. Like others interviewed for this article, the official spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive matters. Similar warnings have come and gone, and the region is still holding its breath.

"The Iranians and their allies are treading cautiously," said a Lebanese individual with close ties to Lebanon's Hezbollah militant group who has been briefed on communications with Tehran. A similar account was provided by a member of parliament in Iraq who is closely linked with Iranian-backed militias in the country: "We were told [by Iran] that it's going to be a limited response," he said, because Tehran "doesn't want to expand the war."

In recent meetings, according to the Lebanese individual with ties to Hezbollah, Iran has expressed concern that Israel and the United States could strike its nuclear program, using a full-scale conflict as a pretext for "essentially neutralizing Iran's nuclear deterrence."

Aliasghar Shafieian, campaign media adviser to newly elected Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, suggested Tehran's retaliation was unlikely to be a repeat of April's hours-long volley. The killing of Haniyeh "was an intelligence-based mission," he told *The Washington Post*, and "Iran's response will be of a similar nature and at a similar level."

The United States has been tight-lipped about how it would respond to another Iranian attack on Israel, stressing that its focus was on advocating for de-escalation and fortifying its ally's

defenses. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said late Sunday that he had ordered the USS Georgia, a guided-missile submarine, to the Middle East and told the USS Abraham Lincoln aircraft carrier strike group to hasten its journey to the region.

On Monday, after President Joe Biden discussed the situation with European leaders, the White House released a joint statement calling on Iran to "stand down its ongoing threats of a military attack against Israel."

Haniyeh, the head of Hamas's political bureau, was killed July 31 in a guesthouse in Tehran, where he was attending Pezeshkian's inauguration. Israel has neither confirmed nor denied its role in the assassination, but it told U.S. officials immediately afterward that it was responsible.

In May, the chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Court announced that he would seek arrest warrants for Haniyeh over war crimes and crimes against humanity in connection with the Oct. 7 attack on Israel, when Hamas militants killed about 1,200 people and took about 250 hostages. Yet Haniyeh was the lead negotiator for the group in talks aimed at securing a cease-fire in Gaza and the release of Israeli hostages, and White House officials were surprised and outraged by the timing of his assassination, fearing it would derail its diplomatic efforts.

The day before the Haniyeh operation, an Israeli drone killed a senior Hezbollah commander and at least six other people, including children, in a southern Beirut suburb — Israel's response to an attack that killed 12 children in the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights. Hezbollah has denied it was behind the strike.

The back-to-back killings were widely interpreted in the region as an attempt by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to stoke a broader conflict, said



A poster of slain Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh hangs in Iran on Saturday. Israel has neither confirmed nor denied its role in Haniyeh's assassination, though it initially told U.S. officials it was responsible.

Abbas Ibrahim, Lebanon's former intelligence chief.

"It shows Netanyahu has no interest in stopping the war," Ibrahim said of the decision to assassinate Haniyeh in Iran, "and it shows now he wants to drag the United States in."

Iran will respond after it takes time for "contemplation and patience," Shafieian said. He acknowledged that the fallout from the Haniyeh assassination is "a significant challenge" for Pezeshkian but said the government was capable of "managing the situation."

"Maybe 40 years ago, some of Iran's actions were out of excitement and emotional," he said. Now, he added, the country will respond in a "mature" way.

A response from Iranian intelligence could take the form of

The United States has been tight-lipped about how it would respond to another Iranian attack on Israel, stressing that its focus was on advocating for de-escalation and fortifying its ally's defenses.

attacks on soft Israeli targets overseas, such as embassies, said Marc Polymeropoulos, a former CIA senior operations officer who served in counterterrorism roles in the Middle East.

"I don't believe the Iranians have the reach to hit Israeli security officials, for example, on Israeli soil," he said.

Tehran's allies in Iraq and Syria are planning to attack U.S. bases in those countries as Iran

launches its expected attack on Israel, according to an Iraqi official with close ties to Iranian-backed forces in the region. The groups have been told to be on "high alert" but have not yet been informed of a timeline for an attack, he said.

State-run media has been awash in coverage about Iran's military readiness. More than 2,000 domestically made missile systems, drones and "other so-

phisticated equipment" were handed over to Iran's navy during a ceremony on Friday, outlets reported, and new air defenses were deployed in the east. The commander of the Iranian army's air defense force, Brig. Gen. Alireza Sabahifard, said the systems allow Iran to "respond decisively to any kind of threat."

At Friday prayers in Tehran, Ahmad Khatami, an imam allied with hard-liners, suggested that Iran's delay in responding to the Haniyeh killing was strategic: "We keep the authorities of the Zionist regime in a state of anxiety," he said.

But analysts say it also highlights Iran's own anxieties at a delicate moment of political transition. Pezeshkian is Iran's first reformist president in nearly two decades, and he had campaigned on greater engagement with the West, hoping to ease the burden of sanctions imposed by Washington and its allies.

A regional war would further isolate Iran and deepen its economic crisis. Over the past 10 months, the value of the Iranian rial has repeatedly hit record lows. Pezeshkian also ran on moderating the enforcement of the country's mandatory dress code for women. Now many Iranians are calling on him to act.

But Pezeshkian's first weeks have been dominated by phone calls to foreign counterparts and fears of regional escalation.

Iran "supports peace and security for all countries across the globe," Pezeshkian said in a Sunday call with the president of the European Council, according to a summary published on state media.

But, Pezeshkian added, "any move threatening peace in any part of the world should be halted."

Salim reported from London. Shira Rubin in Tel Aviv contributed to this report.

U.S. boosts vessel deployments to Middle East as Israel anticipates attack

Growing concerns about Iranian retaliation for Hezbollah leader's killing

This article is by Shira Rubin, Rachel Pannett, Dan Lamothe, Leo Sands, Lior Soroka and Jennifer Hassan

TEL AVIV — The United States has deployed more vessels to the eastern Mediterranean Sea, including a submarine and several destroyers, as concerns grow in the region about a potential Iranian attack on Israel.

On Monday, a U.S. official said another U.S. destroyer had moved into the eastern Mediterranean, bolstering offensive and defensive missile capabilities in the region.

The USS Laboon arrived in the area after making its way from the Red Sea through the Suez Canal, a defense official said, speaking on the condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the issue.

The destroyers USS Roosevelt and USS Bulkeley and a three-ship amphibious task force that includes the USS Wasp, the USS Oak Hill and the USS New York are already in the region. Sailors and Marines in that task force train to handle evacuation operations and could be called upon if U.S. officials determine one is necessary.

Iran has blamed Israel for the assassination last month of Hamas's political leader Ismail Haniyeh and is promising revenge. Israel has not commented on the killing but told U.S. officials immediately afterward that it was responsible.

Speaking on the condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive security matters, an Israeli official, citing conversations with security officials, said Monday that the



Palestinians react Saturday after an Israeli strike on a school in Gaza. Almost 100 people were killed in the strike, officials said. The Israel Defense Forces accused Hamas of using the civilians as shields.

country's updated assessments indicate that Iran has decided to directly attack Israel in response.

On Sunday, U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin ordered the guided-missile submarine USS Georgia to the Middle East and told the USS Abraham Lincoln aircraft carrier strike group to speed up its voyage to the region.

The U.S. deployment was announced by the Defense Department after talks between Austin and Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant. The pair discussed efforts to "deter aggression" by Iran and the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah, according to a readout of the call.

Israel has communicated to Iran and Hezbollah that targeting

civilian population centers would be considered a red line for Israel, which is preparing for a spectrum of scenarios, including one in which Hezbollah attacks first and is joined by Iran afterward, said Yoel Guzansky, a former official on Israel's National Security Council who is now a senior fellow at the Institute for National Security Studies in Tel Aviv.

Guzansky also said that Israel was considering a preemptive attack against Hezbollah, but that such a decision would be conditioned on approval from the United States, which has recently established a "robust American presence in the region, coupled with an enormous U.S. pressure, not seen in recent years, on Iran to

de-escalate."

"Our readiness level is at its peak," an Israel Defense Forces spokesman, Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari, said Monday, adding that Israel, along with the United States, was "following the situation around-the-clock."

In a statement, acting Iranian foreign minister Ali Bagheri Kani said Sunday that "Iran will make the aggressions of the ... Israeli regime costly in a legitimate and firm action." Haniyeh was killed in a guesthouse in Tehran where he was staying to attend the inauguration of Iran's new president, in what has been seen as a humiliating security failure.

Israeli officials fear Iran could coordinate its attack with Hez-

lah, which has vowed its own retaliation for Israel's killing last month of Fuad Shukur, a top commander. Yaakov Amidror, a former national security adviser, said Israel expects that Hezbollah will retaliate for the "hard hit, operationally," that the group experienced.

Amid the spiraling tensions, the United States is bolstering its presence in the region because, in the case of escalation, it "will want to be on the ground to help Israel to defend itself, to prevent damage, and then ensure that Israel does not respond," Amidror said.

Israel is also under growing international pressure to agree to a cease-fire deal that would bring an end to the bloody war in Gaza and free Israeli hostages — in addition to calming tensions with its regional adversaries. On Thursday, Israel will send a delegation to Doha, Qatar, to discuss the U.S.-backed cease-fire proposal made public by President Joe Biden in May, the Israeli official told *The Washington Post*.

"Israel will be as flexible as needed," the official said. The person added that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who has refused to sign a deal during previous rounds of negotiations, "now understands that he needs a deal, that the country is in favor of a deal, that leaving the hostages behind would be a traumatic wound that Israel may not recover from."

"This week, it will be possible to close a deal and bring the hostages home," Israeli opposition leader Yair Lapid said Saturday in a social media post from the weekly hostage rally in Tel Aviv. "All the officials are saying it, the Americans are convinced of it, an absolute majority of Israeli citizens support a deal. Let's do it."

In one of the deadliest bombings of the 10-month conflict, an Israeli strike Saturday on a school that sheltered displaced Palesti-

ans killed almost 100 people, according to Gaza health officials, who do not distinguish between combatants and civilians. The Israel Defense Forces said Hamas fighters had been operating in the school in Gaza City, accusing the militant group of using civilians as human shields.

The IDF said Monday that at least 31 members of Hamas and Islamic Jihad had been killed in Saturday's strike on the school.

In their phone call Sunday night, Austin and Gallant talked about "the importance of mitigating civilian harm," the U.S. readout said, and discussed progress toward a cease-fire deal. Gallant said Monday in a statement that he viewed the finalization of a hostage release as a matter of "urgency."

Here's what else to know:

Hamas said it was investigating after two incidents in which guards shot hostages, including one in which a man died. Two women were also injured in the incidents, a spokesman for the armed wing of Hamas wrote on Telegram on Monday, adding that Israel was ultimately responsible. The Israeli military said that it did not have any intelligence "that allows us to refute or confirm" the claims, but that it was trying to verify the report. The statement did not include details about the incidents, including who the hostages were.

France, Germany and Britain issued a joint statement Monday urging Iran and its allies to refrain from attacks that would escalate tensions in the region, backing U.S., Qatari and Egyptian calls for the immediate resumption of cease-fire negotiations. In a phone call, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz appealed to Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian to end the "spiral of violence" in the region, the German government said Monday.

Helicopter crashes into Hilton hotel, killing pilot of 'unauthorized' flight

Early-morning incident injured two guests in northeastern Australia

BY ANNABELLE TIMSIT

A helicopter crashed into the roof of a Hilton DoubleTree hotel in northeastern Australia early Monday, killing the pilot and injuring two hotel guests, authorities said.

Police, who said the flight was

"unauthorized," are investigating the crash, which occurred shortly before 2 a.m. local time in the popular tourist destination of Cairns, in the state of Queensland.

The twin-engine helicopter's crash into the roof started a fire that sent billowing clouds of smoke into the air and forced hundreds of guests to evacuate, Queensland police said. They did not name the hotel, but newswire photos show the location as the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Cairns, which sits along the Coral Sea.

First responders were called to

the intersection of the Esplanade and Florence Street, authorities said, where the Hilton DoubleTree is located. Hilton did not immediately respond to a request for comment early Monday.

The pilot, who was the only person in the helicopter, was declared dead at the scene and has not been identified, police said. Two hotel guests received "minor injuries" and were taken to a hospital but were "doing okay," Shane Holmes, acting chief superintendent of the Queensland Police Service, told journalists Monday. No one else was injured, which

Holmes called "pure luck."

"We are so grateful that there has been no other injuries as a result of this incident. It could have been much worse," he said.

Photos from the scene of the crash appear to show parts of the helicopter scattered on the ground.

Two of its blades detached, with one landing on the Esplanade near the hotel and the other landing in the pool, the Australian Broadcasting Corporation reported.

Photos also show a smashed window at the hotel.

Holmes said the helicopter "was moved from a general aviation hangar" early Monday, "and it was an unauthorized flight."

It was not immediately clear how the pilot accessed the aircraft. The owner, Nautilus Aviation, said that the flight was unauthorized and that it was investigating what happened.

"Nautilus Aviation are working closely with the Queensland Police Service, the Australian Transport Safety Bureau and other authorities as they investigate the unauthorised use of one of our helicopters in the early hours of

this morning," the company said in statement, adding that it would not be commenting further.

Australian Transport Safety Bureau Chief Commissioner Angus Mitchell said at a news conference Monday that police believe the aircraft took off from Cairns Airport. He said that "visibility was down at the time" of the incident, and that the investigation would look at the aircraft's equipment, the nature of the flight and any other evidence to determine whether "this was a transport safety event or something different."

Residents evacuated from second Russian region amid cross-border attacks

RUSSIA FROM A1

officials that Ukraine controls about 386 square miles and thanking soldiers and commanders for “their decisive actions.”

In his security meeting, Putin ordered the Federal Security Service and Russia's national guard to enforce counterterrorism in the region, including countering Ukrainian sabotage and reconnaissance teams.

But even as Putin spoke, Russian officials were evacuating civilians from a second region, Belgorod, that has been impacted by Ukrainian cross-border attacks, and Russian military bloggers reported fierce fighting to prevent Ukrainian advances.

The governor of Belgorod, Vyacheslav Gladkov, announced that residents were being evacuated from the Krasnaya Yaruga district near Ukraine because of “enemy activity on the border.”

Smirnov's remarks, in particular, highlighted how Ukraine unexpectedly turned the tables on Russia, which holds nearly a fifth of Ukraine's sovereign territory. Ukrainian and Russian officials alike have noted that the operation is the first military invasion of Russia since World War II.

As Smirnov spelled out the scale of Ukraine's incursion, Putin interrupted and ordered him to confine himself to reporting on the economic and humanitarian situation in the region.

On Monday, Sens. Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.) and Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.) visited Ukraine, where they expressed support for the incursion. Speaking to reporters after meeting with top Ukrainian officials including Zelensky, Graham, who has been an important Republican ally for Ukraine, described the Kursk operation as “bold, brilliant, beautiful.”

Both senators, on their sixth trip to Ukraine since 2022, said it was the most hopeful they had seen Ukraine since they began visiting the country. “The breakthrough in Kursk on that front is historic. It is a seismic breakthrough,” Blumenthal said.

The senators insisted that, especially amid such momentum, the United States must loosen rules that prevent Kyiv from using U.S.-provided weapons for long-range attacks inside Russia. Washington has long limited use



People who fled fighting by Ukrainian forces in the Kursk region of Russia line up for humanitarian aid in the city of Kursk. On Monday, people were also being evacuated from Russia's Belgorod region.

of its equipment for such attacks, asking instead that the weapons be used to strike Russian-controlled territory inside Ukraine.

“We can't let Ukraine fight with one arm behind its back, giving them weapons but then telling them they can't use them in the way that's necessary to win,” Blumenthal said.

In the highly choreographed security meeting Monday, Putin sidestepped the symbolic significance of Ukraine's surprise attack — which has galvanized the Ukrainian public and delivered a morale boost to Kyiv's soldiers. Instead, Putin, who read an address to security officials from a notepad covered in large black handwriting, asserted that the goal of the incursion was to prevent Russian advances in eastern Ukraine and insisted that this had failed. “Our armed forces are moving forward along the entire line of contact,” Putin said.

Spin aside, the incursion has posed a major new test for Putin's leadership, again exposing Russian military weakness in regions supposedly under tight control. The Ukrainian advance also sent shock waves through Russia's elite and left tens of thousands of residents of border regions feeling furious and abandoned.

Smirnov said 121,000 people had been evacuated from the Kursk region to date. As local officials organized evacuations and admitted their lack of clarity even on the whereabouts of Ukrainian forces, pro-Kremlin media outlets portrayed a one-sided battle dominated by Russia. They quoted military officials who claimed without evidence that Russian strikes had killed over 1,350 Ukrainian soldiers and destroyed 29 tanks since Tuesday, when the Ukrainians first entered Russia.

The head of the Kursk region's Belovo district, Nikolai Volobuyev, described the situation as “very tense” and called on residents to leave.

“I am sure that our servicemen will do everything to cope with the threat that has arisen,” Belgorod's Gladkov said Monday on Telegram.

Russia announced a state of emergency in several southern border regions and has rushed reinforcements to the area and mounted air attacks. Military officials claimed without clear evidence Sunday to have halted the advance and inflicted massive casualties on the Ukrainian units holding towns inside Russia.

Smirnov said 121,000 people had been evacuated from the Kursk region to date.

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Russia's Defense Ministry on

Monday claimed to have killed 260 Ukrainian troops in the past 24 hours, adding that Russia had repelled seven attacks on towns and villages in Kursk in that time. It also claimed that its forces had advanced in the Kharkiv and Donetsk regions of Ukraine.

Earlier Monday, Putin boasted of the “unique achievements of the Russian defense industry,” but did not mention the Kursk attack, in a video address to Russia's annual military show, Army-2024, designed to showcase Russia's military might and drum up foreign weapons sales.

But Ukraine's incursion into the Kursk region has stunned and embarrassed Russia's military, once more exposing its slow and lumbering approach against a nimble opponent. Russia's deployment of reinforcements followed reports that Ukraine had probably pulled thousands of soldiers off the battlefield in eastern Ukraine, where Russian forces have been gaining ground.

But questions remain about Kyiv's goals and how long it plans to hold territory in the Kursk region, given the supply-line and logistical challenges it may face.

One of Russia's strongest advantages is its superior force strength, with far higher num-

bers of soldiers and weapons. Putin has also shown a willingness to accept massive casualties in the war while quashing any domestic pushback. Criticism of the military or the war is now a felony in Russia, carrying a potentially stiff prison sentence.

In June, Britain's Defense Ministry reported that the number of Russian troops killed or wounded in Ukraine had reached half a million. In recent months, it has estimated that Russian casualties are numbering about 1,100 a day.

There is little clarity on the number of Ukrainian forces deployed to the Kursk region, or the front-line positions of Ukrainian and Russian forces, with Ukrainian units reported to be occupying the town of Sudzha and attacking the town of Korenevo.

Pro-Russian military blogger Yuri Podolyaka described the situation in Kursk as “alarming,” reporting that Ukraine had three relatively large military groups in the region. Podolyaka reported that Ukrainian military personnel had managed to take Gordeyevka village and were attacking Martynovka village.

The extent to which the Ukrainian attack succeeded in drawing Russian forces away from battlefields in Ukraine's Donetsk and Kharkiv regions is also unclear.

Ukrainian military officials have declined to comment on the surprise operation, and government officials have been similarly tight-lipped.

On Sunday, Zelensky continued to call on Western military donors to lift restrictions on Kyiv's use of donated weapons to carry out long-range strikes in Russia. “Terror must always be defeated — this is a fundamental principle of protecting life,” he said. “We will continue to discuss with our partners how air defense protects lives, and how lifting restrictions on long-range strikes will save thousands of lives.”

The incursion clearly has achieved at least one Ukrainian objective: breaking through the haze of Russian complacency about the war, which has had limited impact on the lives of most ordinary Russians.

Pro-Kremlin analyst Sergei Markov said the attack had triggered intense criticism of Russia's military command, speculating it could lead to changes in leader-

ship and steps to bring it more tightly under Kremlin control.

He said the attack had also driven home to ordinary Russians that they could no longer just ignore the war and hope for it to end. “In Russia they realized that apparently no one would be able to sit it out, and the demand for the principle ‘Everything for the front, everything for victory’ has increased,” Markov wrote in a post on Telegram.

How the Kremlin could assert more control, however, is difficult to see. Already, Putin has placed overall operational authority for the war in the hands of the chief of the general staff, Valery Gerasimov, after sidelining lower-ranking operational commanders.

Pro-Kremlin tabloid Moskovsky Komsomolets on Monday quoted Aпти Alaudinov, head of the Chechen Akhmat special forces, charged with defending border regions, as claiming Ukraine's advance had been halted.

“I hope Zelensky and the Kyiv leadership realized that their blitzkrieg has failed,” Alaudinov told the newspaper. “We have never destroyed so many enemies in one day in the entire special military operation,” he said, referring to the war. His comments, however, could not be verified.

Defense Minister Andrei Belousov, addressing the Army-2024 show on Monday, described the conflict as an “armed standoff between Russia and the collective West,” which he said was “caused by the aspirations of the United States and its allies to maintain their dominance and to prevent the emergence of a new equal multipolar world order.”

Russian newspaper Kommersant last week reported on the sense of abandonment and outrage among Kursk residents after the initial attack. Some bemoaned the absence of the Russian state, with phone lines in local administrations going unanswered and no help or advice on evacuations. Others expressed fury over official “lies” that the situation was under control.

“You just don't need to lie to people anymore,” one woman who had fled the region told the newspaper. “We can handle it ourselves — just don't lie to us.”

David L. Stern and Siobhán O'Grady contributed to this report.

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ECONOMY & BUSINESS

How Coca-Cola failed to suppress a boycott over Gaza

An ad campaign in South Asia tried to distance Coke from Israel. Instead, it became a case study in botched corporate messaging.

BY JOHN HUDSON

When sales of Coca-Cola began to plummet in parts of the Middle East and Asia this summer in response to boycotts of corporations with alleged ties to Israel, the soda company's franchise in Bangladesh rolled out an expensive advertising campaign featuring a television star known for his roles in South Asian soap operas and reality TV.

The actor, Sharaf Ahmed Jibon, played a shopkeeper who assured customers that Coca-Cola was not an Israeli product and underscored the company's ties to Muslim communities. "Even Palestine has a Coke factory," he told a group of boys who then dropped their political objections and guzzled down bottles of the sugary beverage.

But there was a problem.

The so-called Palestinian factory is an Israeli-owned bottling company that operates on an Israeli settlement in East Jerusalem considered illegal under international law.

The advertisement's misleading claim drew immediate backlash and generated even more anger toward Coca-Cola, which pulled the ad from all TV markets and social media accounts. In its first public remarks on the controversy, the company told The Washington Post that the campaign was a regrettable mistake.

"As a global brand, we partner with local franchises to serve local communities. We acknowledge that the recent video missed the mark, and we apologize," said Scott Leith, vice president for global strategic communication at Coca-Cola. "The video has been removed from all platforms."

The incident underscores the perilous moment for American

companies seeking to untangle themselves from the widespread anger over Washington's military and political support for Israel's offensive in Gaza.

Since Oct. 7, when Hamas-led militants killed more than 1,200 people in Israel and took more than 240 hostages, the Israeli military has killed more than 39,000 Palestinians, according to local health officials, and the country's restrictions on access to humanitarian aid have created a famine in parts of Gaza.

U.S. megabrands such as Coca-Cola, McDonald's, Starbucks and KFC all have experienced a decline in sales in regions that have had Gaza-related boycotts.

In February, shares of McDonald's fell about 4 percent after the company reported that flagging sales in the Middle East contributed to it missing fourth-quarter revenue targets. In January, Starbucks reported quarterly earnings and revenue that fell short of Wall Street's expectations because of "headwinds" that the company's CEO, Laxman Narasimhan, said included the Gaza boycott.

The boycott against Coca-Cola derives from the decision of its franchisee the Central Bottling Company to operate out of the Atarot Settlement Industrial Zone in Israeli-occupied Palestinian territory, said Omar Barghouti, co-founder of Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions, a nonviolent activist movement opposed to Israel's occupation.

That made the Coke advertisement's promotion of a Palestinian factory particularly galling, Barghouti said.

"The company must think people of Bangladesh and possibly all Muslims are so gullible to fall for its botched, I dare say primitive,



Sharaf Ahmed Jibon, a South Asian television star, is said to have received death threats after starring in the Coca-Cola campaign.

propaganda," he said.

In the ad, set in a hot, bustling marketplace in Bangladesh, the shopkeeper boasts about Coke's global appeal and says rumors that the soda comes from Israel are misinformation.

"Listen, guys, Coke is not at all from 'that place,'" he says, without explicitly mentioning Israel.

"For the past 138 years, people in 190 countries have been drinking Coke. They drink it in Turkey, Spain and Dubai. Even Palestine has a Coke factory," he says.

The misleading characterization of the factory sparked a furious backlash online and professional consequences for the advertisement's actors.

"It added fuel to the boycott, and the actors involved in the advertisement received death threats," Sadia Islam, a writer and director in the Bangladeshi film industry, said in an interview.

One of the actors, Shimul Sharma, issued a public apology, saying that "in the future" he would

accept only projects that respect "human rights."

The shopkeeper actor, Jibon, released a statement saying that the commercial was "only a part" of his "professional work" and that he has not "supported Israel in any way" and "never will."

The regional Coca-Cola franchise in Bangladesh, already weathering a 23 percent drop in sales before the commercial aired, pulled the ad and terminated another one that had been shot but never aired as part of the same campaign.

Paul Argenti, a professor of corporate communication at Dartmouth University, said it was striking to see an international company such as Coca-Cola mis-handle the incident so thoroughly.

"In sensitive situations like this, your facts have to be correct and your communication has to be airtight," he said. "It appears that they believed they could get away with this kind of deception."

Argenti acknowledged the company's global footprint and decentralized franchise structure, but said it does not excuse the green-lighting of advertisements with easily disprovable facts.

"Coca-Cola was not strong enough in terms of pulling this advertisement as soon as they saw it, and they were way too slow in getting an apology out," Argenti said. "Those are sins that a company like Coca-Cola, which is one of the best companies in the world, should not be able to get away with."

The company's misfortunes have created a boon for local competitors in different parts of the Muslim world, according to regional analysts.

"People are refusing to drink Coca-Cola, and local brands like Jordan's Matrix Cola and Saudi Arabia's Kinza have seen a surge in sales," said Will Todman, a Middle East analyst at the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

"The only people I've seen drinking Coca-Cola were tourists," said Todman, who has been traveling in the Middle East this summer examining the conflict's impacts.

Even Western brands that have exercised more marketing discipline than Coke have suffered.

In Jordan, supermarkets have labeled local products to help direct boycotters away from foreign brands that have ties with Israel. Starbucks's franchisee in the Middle East had to lay off 2,000 employees because of the boycotts.

"I've seen branches of Starbucks and McDonald's completely empty in Morocco, Tunisia and Oman," Todman said.

The rationale for the boycotts has varied depending on the company.

McDonald's was targeted after its franchise in Israel sponsored a giveaway of thousands of free meals to Israeli soldiers. Starbucks came under fire after the coffee giant sued its own union, Starbucks Workers United, after the workers posted a message of solidarity with Palestinians under an account on X that uses the Starbucks logo.

Pro-Israel organizations such as the Anti-Defamation League have criticized the boycott, saying it is aimed at "eliminating the only Jewish state in the entire world," said Marina Rosenberg, the group's senior vice president for international affairs.

Barghouti denied the allegation, calling the campaign a "principled, strategic and effective boycott."

In response to the boycotts, the companies have all stressed that they take no side in the fraught conflict.

Some of the franchises in Muslim-majority countries have taken more assertive action. In Qatar and Oman, McDonald's franchisees have donated to humanitarian relief efforts in Gaza, though they remain under fierce scrutiny from boycotters.

Ultimately, any company with a strong association with the United States is at risk, given Washington's decision to provide Israel political support at international institutions and the vast majority of bombs and munitions dropped in the conflict, Todman said.

"Many citizens in the Arab world who are boycotting may not have detailed information about the companies' exact ties to Israel," he said. "Instead, I think people boycott the companies because they represent the United States, and they oppose U.S. support for Israel."

Walz will mark first solo campaign stop with address to union members

BY LAUREN KAORI GURLEY

Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz, Vice President Kamala Harris's running mate, will address union members in Los Angeles this week on his first solo campaign stop, as the ticket solidifies its relationship with organized labor, a crucial base of support.

The Democratic campaign said that Walz will speak Tuesday at the biennial convention of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), one of the country's largest public-sector unions, with more than 1 million members.

The visit comes as the Harris-Walz campaign, riding a wave of momentum, jockeys with former president Donald Trump and Sen. JD Vance (R-Ohio) for the support of working-class Americans. Union voters in particular are expected to play an outsized role in the election, especially in key battleground states.

Walz is expected to speak to AFSCME members Tuesday about his experience as a card-carrying union member during his years as a Minnesota public school teacher and contrast Har-

ris's record on labor issues with Trump's.

Lee Saunders, the president of AFSCME, told The Washington Post that Walz had "been there for our members" as Minnesota governor, citing his efforts to combat the privatization of prisons, and highlighted Walz's years as a union member, saying he "has truly been involved in the trade union movement."

"We believe it's so exciting to have someone like that who is running for vice president," Saunders said, noting that Trump allies want to "destroy public-sector unions."

As Minnesota governor, Walz signed a variety of pro-worker laws supported by labor — most significantly paid sick leave and paid family and medical leave. He also supported laws that banned noncompete agreements, prohibited employers from holding mandatory meetings intended to persuade workers against unionizing, raised safety standards in warehouses and meatpacking plants, and expanded unemployment benefits to hourly school employees who do not work during the summer.



JULIA NIKHINSON/AP

Democratic vice-presidential candidate Tim Walz's speech Tuesday comes as Democrats jockey with Republicans for the support of the working class. Walz was in a union during his years as a teacher.

DIGEST

STOCK MARKET

Wall Street holds relatively steady

U.S. stocks drifted through a quiet Monday to finish mixed, as markets around the world stabilized after a wild week of extreme swings.

The S&P 500 edged up by less than 0.01 percent after small gains and losses through the day. The Dow Jones Industrial Average slipped 140 points, or 0.4 percent, and the Nasdaq composite index rose 0.2 percent.

Many European and Asian markets were also relatively quiet. That's a notable turn after last week kicked off with the worst day for Japanese stocks since the Black Monday crash of 1987, only to give way to the best day since 2022 for U.S. stocks.

This week will feature reports on inflation and how much U.S. shoppers are spending at retailers. The best-case scenario for Wall Street would be data showing a continued slowdown in inflation, combined with strengthening U.S. retail sales.

That would indicate that the

Federal Reserve is successfully walking the tightrope it has been attempting since it began raising interest rates sharply in 2022: It wants the U.S. economy to slow by enough to snuff out high inflation, but not so much that it causes a recession.

— Associated Press

PHARMACEUTICALS

J&J has ample support for talc settlement

Johnson & Johnson has cleared a key threshold of support for its proposed \$6.5 billion settlement of tens of thousands of lawsuits alleging that its baby powder and other talc products caused cancer, according to a Bloomberg report.

More than 75 percent of claimants voted in favor of the proposal, according to Bloomberg, a hurdle the company set for a third attempt at placing a subsidiary in bankruptcy protection to resolve the litigation.

Johnson & Johnson spokesperson Clare Boyle said the company could not comment while the vote tally was not final.

Reuters had not independently verified the report.

Johnson & Johnson faces lawsuits from about 61,000 claimants who alleged that its baby powder and other talc products were contaminated with asbestos and caused ovarian and other cancers. J&J denies the allegations and has said that its products are safe.

The company set the 75 percent vote threshold, matching a provision in U.S. bankruptcy law, as the benchmark to proceed with another bankruptcy bid, which now is expected in the near future. The deadline for casting votes was July 26.

— Reuters

Novartis fails to block generic of Entresto

Novartis failed to convince a federal court in Delaware to block MSN Pharmaceuticals, a maker of generic drugs, from launching its own version of Novartis's blockbuster heart-failure drug Entresto, according to a court decision issued Monday.

U.S. District Judge Richard Andrews ruled that Novartis's chance of winning its patent-infringement lawsuit challenging the generic was too low to justify halting MSN's launch. However, he temporarily ordered MSN not to sell the drug while Novartis appeals to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit.

Entresto is Novartis's best-selling drug and brought the Swiss company more than \$6 billion in revenue last year. MSN's version of Entresto was approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration last month and would be the first U.S. generic of the drug.

Spokespeople for Novartis and MSN did not immediately respond to requests for comment on the decision.

— Reuters

ALSO IN BUSINESS

The Securities and Exchange Commission on Monday sued the cryptocurrency company NovaTech and its married co-founders, saying they fraudulently raised more than \$650 million from more than

200,000 investors worldwide, including many Haitian Americans. NovaTech and co-founders Cynthia and Eddy Petion allegedly promised investors their money would be safe, with Cynthia Petion saying they would be "in profit from day one." The SEC said the Petions instead used new money mainly to repay earlier investors and pay commissions to promoters, while siphoning millions of dollars for themselves. It alleged that the scheme lasted for four years until NovaTech's collapse in May 2023. Lawyers for NovaTech and the Petions, who are believed to live in Panama, could not immediately be identified.

Texas's attorney general opened an investigation Monday into Houston's electric utility over allegations of fraud and waste after Hurricane Beryl, adding to the mounting scrutiny after widespread power outages left millions without electricity for days last month. The latest investigation of CenterPoint Energy comes after state regulators and Gov. Greg Abbott (R) have also demanded answers about storm preparations and

the response to Beryl, a Category 1 hurricane that knocked out power to nearly 3 million people around the nation's fourth-largest city. The storm was blamed for at least three dozen deaths, including those of some residents who died in homes that were left without air conditioning in sweltering heat after the storm's passage.

U.S. consumers are increasingly concerned about falling behind on their bills, with delinquency expectations rising to the highest level since the onset of the pandemic. The average likelihood that consumers would miss a minimum debt payment in the next three months rose to 13.3 percent, the highest level since April 2020, according to a Federal Reserve Bank of New York survey released Monday.

That stress increased the most for people earning less than \$50,000 a year and for those with a high school degree or less. Expectations of household spending growth also fell to the lowest level in more than three years, the survey showed.

— From news services

TUESDAY OPINION

MATT BAI

The mystery of the ageless president

Given the cratering approval ratings for JD Vance, you would think former president Donald Trump's advanced age would be getting a lot of attention, just as President Joe Biden's did before he stepped out of his campaign.

After all, Trump is 78, only three years younger than Biden, and should he prove unable to complete a second term, the presidency would fall to a 40-year-old political novice who thinks women with children should get more votes than those without.

And yet, Trump's age isn't generating much alarm for voters or news organizations, in part because, unlike Biden, he comes off as surprisingly robust. Trump's supporters might see this as affirmation of his superhuman strength — or even, after last month's assassination attempt, as divine will. I see it as connected to whatever personality disorder he manifests.

Before we get to that, let me just stipulate that Trump is, objectively speaking, old — and there are moments when he really seems it. Maybe you've seen this YouTube video of him hitting the links with pro golfer Bryson DeChambeau. Trump spends much of the time wheezing through his words, his waxen face pulled tight; he reminds me of Christopher Walken in "Dune."

But you know, he's still golfing at 78 — and pretty well at that. And Trump still managed to give a convention speech last month, largely extemporaneously, that ended up being more like a filibuster. Sure, he ranted and meandered like a guy you might cross the street to avoid if you saw him downtown after dark, but there's nothing new about that.

There's no escaping the fact that Trump still seems a good deal younger than Biden. He appears to be nourished by a bottomless wellspring of rage.

What makes this so remarkable is that Trump has already been president, a job known to sharply accelerate the aging process. It's possible we overstate this phenomenon; just because we all saw President Barack Obama's hair turn white, for instance, doesn't mean it would have been any less white had he been, say, an insurance broker. If I showed you a picture of me from eight years ago, I'm pretty sure you'd think that writing columns exacts its own horrible price.

The presidency didn't age Trump the way it does everyone else. That tells you something about him.

But I think it's fair to say that the strain of the presidency shows itself in pretty much everyone who leaves the office — in worry lines in the face, gauntness from lack of sleep, creaking backs and failing knees.

Ronald Reagan, who was about Trump's age when he left office, hurtled into Alzheimer's disease. Lyndon B. Johnson died a frail man at 64, just four years after leaving the White House. Bill Clinton, who was only 52 when he completed his second term, developed a serious heart condition soon after.

Watch any video of Biden four years ago, and you'll have the odd sensation of having turned back the clock by a decade at least. It was the visual effects of Biden's aging, rather than evidence of any cognitive decline, that doomed his candidacy from the moment he appeared on the debate stage in June.

Why does the presidency have this effect? It's not the late nights and endless flights (although they probably don't help). It's the physical burden of awesome responsibility. Every decision seems to involve bad options and worse; some cost livelihoods, others, actual lives. Add to this the toll it all takes on a family (in Biden's case, the very public prosecution of his only surviving son), and you can see why a normal person isn't built to withstand it.

But this is where Trump is truly not normal. I'm trying not to be cruel here, but it's not exactly breaking new ground to say that he seems to lack for something innately human: the basic capacity to internalize other people's pain. As president, Trump never betrayed remorse or apologized, never seemed to take personally the 800,000 Americans who died of covid-19 on his watch. Tragedy breeds in him only defiance. Trump's motto might be: "Don't worry, be angry."

When Trump and his children talk about the sacrifices their family made to serve the public, they aren't talking about his anguished nights spent roaming the halls of the White House. They're talking about money.

The point is that empathy and self-doubt — the feeling that we're failing to meet the critical needs of others — are the things that really take a toll on us. Whereas clinical callousness may well be a fountain of youth — from which Trump has been guzzling his entire life.

I don't know about you, but I'd take a president stooped and shuffling under the weight of his burdens over one who seems not to feel them at all, any day of the week.

It's true that Trump seems remarkably fit for a man his age. But what's broken can't be fixed.



Donald Trump at a campaign event in Harrisburg, Pa., on July 31.



Students arrive by bus at Fleming Elementary School on Detroit's East Side in January 1976.

How a Supreme Court decision kept school segregation alive

BY MICHELLE ADAMS

This year marked the 70th anniversary of *Brown v. Board of Education*, the landmark 1954 U.S. Supreme Court case. In it, the court unanimously held that separating children on the basis of race in public schools was unconstitutional, and rejected the idea that segregated schools could be "separate but equal." *Brown* rightly became iconic, a watershed moment in the progress toward racial equality in America.

But just 20 years after *Brown* — 50 years ago this summer — the Supreme Court decided another case that effectively stopped the promise of *Brown* in its tracks. *Milliken v. Bradley* is far less famous than *Brown*, but it should be better known, since it's one of the primary reasons schools are, in practice, still so segregated today.

The events at the center of *Milliken* took place in Detroit, which was home to thousands of Black people who had left the South in hopes of a better life during the Great Migration. In 1950, Detroit boasted nearly 2 million residents and was the fourth-largest city in the country. It was a city on the move. But behind the bluster was an unsettling reality: In Detroit, Jim Crow was alive and well.

Even as the city's population expanded, the growing Black community was held in check. Black people were contained to specific and often overcrowded neighborhoods in the central city. This containment wasn't accidental. Instead, it was the result of government policy. Courts enforced racially restrictive covenants that prevented Black occupancy in White areas, public housing was officially racially segregated, and a variety of governmental actors made it virtually impossible for housing developers to build housing for interracial occupancy. The city even featured a literal segregation barrier — the Birwood Wall, which still stands — between a Black and a White neighborhood.

As the 1950s turned into the 1960s, and particularly after civil unrest in 1967, many of Detroit's White families decamped for the suburbs. White people left the city of Detroit because the suburbs were open to them. But Blacks could not follow, for largely the same reason that they were prevented from entering White neighborhoods within the city: racial discrimination.

The containment extended to education, too. In the South, schools were segregated on the basis of race through state and local legislation; that was what *Brown v. Board of Education* was all about. That wasn't the case in Detroit, but the schools were segregated anyway. Why? School authorities simply incorporated residential segregation right into the schools. Requiring a child to attend school in her neighborhood effectively determined the racial composition of the schools. It was this kind of rule, which on its face seemed innocuous but in operation was anything but, that was the essence of northern Jim Crow.

In 1970, the NAACP sued state and local officials in federal court. During the course of the trial, the group's lawyers showed how government officials had intentionally segregated Detroit schools. But they also showed something bigger and more challenging to combat: how government policy had fomented housing segregation throughout the Detroit metropolitan area, which, in turn, led to the schools' segregation.

The judge who heard the case, Stephen J. Roth, was a Hungarian immigrant and former prosecutor who was hardly a liberal firebrand. But Roth was so convinced by the evidence that he ordered the boldest school desegregation plan that had ever been proposed in the United States. Roth's logic was plain: He found that state and local officials had intentionally segregated the schools in Detroit, but that there was no way to create meaningful desegregation within the city, because Detroit's public schools were already majority-Black. They could only be brought into compliance with *Brown* by including the suburbs.

Roth's sweeping and ambitious integration plan, therefore, included dozens of largely White, suburban school districts right alongside Detroit's. Southeastern Michigan's children — Black and White — would be educated together. Under Roth's plan, White families could not avoid integration merely by moving across 8 Mile Road and out of the city. Based on the judge's reading of precedent, *Brown* required metropolitan desegregation. Full stop.

But Roth's ruling didn't stand. On July 25, 1974, in *Milliken v. Bradley*, the Supreme Court overturned Roth's plan. In a 5-4 decision, the court ruled that suburban school districts that had not formally engaged in racial discrimination themselves could not be included in a larger, metropolitan integration plan. Emphasizing the importance of local control, the court treated the suburban school districts as independent, mini-sovereigns, even though the state, which had control over school-district lines, had violated the Constitution. But the issue in *Milliken* wasn't whether the school authorities had violated the Constitution; the Supreme Court never said otherwise. The question was whether the surrounding suburban school districts could be included in the remedy for that violation — so that Detroit's Black schoolchildren would have a meaningful remedy. And the answer to that question, said the Supreme Court, was no.

Brown spoke to the problem of racially separate schools. But *Milliken* addressed the next-generation issue: whether racially separate school districts could be used as fences to keep schools segregated. The Supreme Court's decision effectively put an end to integration in northern schools, by "containing" the problem of segregation within city limits.

And that, in effect, spelled the end for *Brown* itself, as the court's ruling applied nationwide. At the time, many school districts in the South, which

had clearly violated *Brown*, were still under court order to desegregate. But once those districts achieved "unitary status" and were no longer operating "dual" racially separate school systems, the constitutional violation was cured. This meant *Brown* no longer applied to them, but *Milliken* did. And *Milliken* said school district lines were sacrosanct. *Milliken* told families seeking to avoid desegregation exactly what to do: move to a different school district. The inevitable result was a decades-long process of resegregation that continues to this day, and which wiped out many of the gains that were made in *Brown*'s first two decades.

When the *Milliken* case was decided, Detroit's schools were more than two-thirds Black. Since then, segregation in the United States has only increased. In 2019, the majority of large metropolitan areas were more segregated than they had been in 1990. Using 2020 Census data, one study found that Detroit was the nation's most-segregated city; it was more than 80 percent Black, with some nearby suburbs, such as Grosse Pointe, 90 percent White.

Legislators are beginning to understand the powerful role *Milliken* played in limiting *Brown*'s promise. In 2020, the U.S. House passed the Strength in Diversity Act, which would have provided federal money to local education agencies to improve racial and socioeconomic diversity in public schools from preschool to high school. The Education and Labor Committee's report supporting the act recognized *Milliken*'s importance in the government's retreat from integration efforts. The legislation was not enacted during the 116th Congress, but Sen. Chris Murphy (D-Conn.) reintroduced it during the current legislative session. This time around, it should become law.

Brown was a legal decision our nation could be proud of. In a brief opinion written in plain, declarative language, the court spoke to the country as it wanted to see itself: open, not closed, polyglot rather than parochial, a land of economic dynamism and equal opportunity. Just one generation later, the court in *Milliken* spoke not to our better angels but to our worst instincts. The country missed a critical opportunity to knit together our cities and our suburbs, Black and White, the well-off and the economically disadvantaged.

Today, the Strength in Diversity Act is just one of many initiatives by people working to fulfill the promise of *Brown* and make the enduring hope of metropolitan desegregation real. Fifty years ago this summer, the Supreme Court frustrated those aims, taking us down the wrong path. But those aspirations have never died — and the fight is far from over.

Michelle Adams is the Henry M. Butzel Professor of Law at the University of Michigan and the author of "The Containment: Detroit, the Supreme Court, and the Battle for Racial Justice in the North," forthcoming in January.

RAMESH PONNURU

Having more kids is a worthy goal. JD Vance isn't helping.

When former president Donald Trump picked him as his running mate, Sen. JD Vance (Ohio) became the most prominent "pronatalist" in U.S. politics — to use the awkward label for people who wish we had more children — and the most divisive. He has been on the defensive for repeatedly claiming that "childless cat ladies" have too much influence in our country.

Making the modern world more welcoming to children is a tall order. And, as he is demonstrating, some advocates of that cause are making it taller.

A concern about declining birth rates doesn't have to come with hostility toward those without children. And the concern is justified. Both the global and the national birth rates have been falling for decades. Americans, like the people of most developed countries, are having fewer children than needed to keep the population steady. That's a problem for Social Security and Medicare, for economic dynamism, and even for our military strength. Immigration can keep our population growing — but falling birth rates tend to reduce support for it and, anyway, more and more countries are seeing the same decline, so eventually the supply of potential immigrants will fall, too.

But pronatalism comes with baggage. It has been historically associated with aggressive nationalism and racial eugenics. (That, plus partisan brain rot, helps explain why Vance has been accused of wanting more White children in particular even

though his own kids are mixed-race.) In an individualistic country such as ours, it also risks coming across as bossy, or just plain weird — which is what Democrats have started saying about the Republican ticket since Vance was chosen.

Pronatalists can leave that impression even when they are not trying to give offense. They tend, naturally enough, to have and to valorize families that most Americans would consider very large, with six or more children. Elon Musk, another well-known pronatalist, has 12. These parents often make excellent points about the negative judgments to which contemporary culture subjects their families. Even in a higher-fertility future, though, families that big are bound to remain outliers. Their numbers might increase in a more child-friendly society. But any realistic increase in U.S. birth rates would be much more a matter of two-children parents deciding to have one more.

The good news for pronatalists, in a manner of speaking, is that birth rates are also lower than American women say they want. Surveys find a sizable gap between the average number of children they have and the average number they would like to have. Success, then, is more a matter of helping people achieve their preferences than of changing them — of identifying the obstacles to having more children and removing them.

Some on the left and the right, including Vance, have suggested reducing restrictions on home-build-

ing as a way to lower housing costs, which would help families. Vance has also proposed reforms to make childbirth free. Others say that government help in paying for child care would do a lot to make adults more willing to have children.

All of these ideas invite further debate and questions. What about the many homeowners who like restrictions on building because they preserve their home values? Should parents who provide child care themselves, often forgoing opportunities to earn income in the process, receive assistance, too? If the government provides such assistance, where should it get the money?

Ross Douthat, a pronatalist New York Times columnist, thinks the scale of the problem demands a much more ambitious, even "revolutionary," agenda, and that pronatalists can't flinch from seeming weird by proposing, say, that parents be allowed to vote on behalf of their children. On the other hand, as he would probably agree, there are a lot of small improvements we haven't tried yet. The value of the tax credit for children keeps falling.

What should be clear, especially after the past few weeks, is that for both moral and political reasons, pronatalists have to stay far away from demeaning adults who have not had children. It turns people who might otherwise be neutral, or even supportive, toward pronatalist initiatives into enemies. It does nothing to win converts — which means that it's no way to be fruitful and multiply.

OPINION

The Washington Post

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

A new measure of global progress: the Olympics

THE WORLD is still basking in the warm afterglow of a successful 2024 Paris Olympics. In addition to extraordinary feats on the track and in the pool, or beautiful photos of the Eiffel Tower adorned with the Olympic rings, this Olympiad should be remembered for the diversity of those who medaled. Five teams won gold, silver or bronze for the first time, extending a longer-term trend toward a more competitively balanced Olympics.

None of these milestones was more inspiring than sprinter Julien Alfred's gold medal — the first of any kind for St. Lucia — in the women's 100-meter dash.

Her country (population: 180,000) plans to honor the win with a national holiday. Another Caribbean nation, Dominica, also earned its first medal, as Thea LaFond secured gold in the women's triple jump. She was the sole woman from her country competing in a track and field event. That might be because the island doesn't have a track, although Ms. LaFond now plans to build one.

In gymnastics, Algeria's Kaylia Nemour became the first competitor from Africa to win an Olympic medal, and both Colombia and Kazakhstan won their first podium spots in the sport. Not every first occurred on behalf of an athlete's home country: Boxer Cindy Ngamba won the first medal for the Refugee Olympic Team.

The increasing diversity of countries medaling mostly reflects the growing number of independent countries since the dissolution of the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia in the early 1990s. Over time, this has created a less top-heavy medal table. For most of the Games' history, only a handful of countries dominated. As recently as the 1988 Seoul Games, the top three countries won more than 40 percent of the medals. In Paris, that share was only a quarter. China, a nonparticipant before 1984, has replaced the Soviet Union as a fixture in the top tier. Russia did not participate at all this year, having been appropriately banned (along with Belarus) for its aggression against Ukraine.

New nations on the podium are also a reminder that, for all the world's problems, the past quarter-century has brought a historic decline in poverty and the rise of a "global middle class." Improved economic opportunity allows more young, talented people a chance to pursue their athletic careers — even on the world's biggest sporting stage. China's success at the Olympics illustrates that trend, though its athletes enjoy outright state backing, and one blot on this Olympics was the unresolved issue of Chinese swimmers who had tested positive for performance-enhancing drugs before the Tokyo Games being allowed to compete in Paris. Another positive global trend — easier, less expensive movement across borders — has resulted in athletes from poorer countries making use of top training facilities in richer ones.

Economics isn't the only factor responsible for a nation's medal count. Research has shown that higher gender equality in a country correlates with more female athletes winning medals, even after control-



Julien Alfred of St. Lucia after winning the women's 100-meter final in Saint-Denis, France, on Aug. 3.



Cindy Ngamba, the first member of the Refugee Olympic Team to win a medal.

The Olympics have become much more competitive over time

Number of countries medaling in the Summer Olympics



Note: The 20th century saw boycotts of several Summer Olympic Games, such as 1976 in Montreal (34 countries), 1980 in Moscow (67 countries) and 1984 in Los Angeles (19 countries).

Source: Olympics.com, Olympicgameswinners.com

ling for gross domestic product and population. Hence another milestone this year: The Paris Games were the first in which an equal number of male and female athletes took part — a stunning rise from the 1980s, when only a quarter of Olympic athletes were female.

Ms. Alfred of St. Lucia said bringing home a gold medal "would definitely have a positive impact" on the children of her country. The hero's welcome waiting for returning athletes in countries formerly devoid of medals will inspire more young people to try sports. And such scenes motivate governments and sponsors to invest more in athletics. That even happens in the world's largest economy: After the U.S. women medaled in rugby in 2014, the team received a \$4 million donation.

Not every athlete can go home with a medal, and some lost out by mere milliseconds. A host of photo finishes this year is a reminder of the tiny gap that determines which athletes receive the lion's share of attention. But even those who didn't make the podium took advantage of their moment. Kimia Yousofi, an Afghan sprinter, finished last but held up a sign to highlight the plight of women in her country under Taliban rule.

To be sure, Paris, like previous Games, was not without controversy. Taiwanese athletes had to compete under the banner of "Chinese Taipei," and spectators who held up signs with the name "Taiwan" had them taken away and ripped up. Women's boxing ignited a fierce debate about gender in sports. And there were many debates about the quality of food as well as the health of athletes whose events took place in the Seine.

Despite its problems, the Paris Games showed that more young people are getting a chance to thrive. Here's hoping Los Angeles 2028 is even more diverse — and exciting.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

10 things Mr. Biden should do during the rest of his presidency

President Joe Biden has ended his reelection bid, but he still has almost half a year left in his term. The Post asked readers what Mr. Biden should do in that time. While many focused on Supreme Court reform or the Harris campaign, others offered these suggestions.

Give asylum seekers a chance

Now that unauthorized border crossings have hit a Biden-era low, the president should give every asylum seeker a real chance at a better life. He should double the number of immigration judges and their assistants, close some of the detention centers (especially those that are privately run) and reallocate money spent on long-term detention. Mr. Biden should funnel the money through the Federal Emergency Management Agency to operate more hotels and shelters in far-flung, smaller towns. He can also make work permits available on the first day someone applies for asylum so immigrants don't have to work under the table. Finally, the administration should provide all asylum seekers who don't have support with six to nine months of housing, food and English classes so they have a much softer landing.

Karen Hester, Grand Lake, Colo.

I am hoping President Joe Biden will follow President Ronald Reagan's lead and provide amnesty for immigrants who have lived in the country for more than 10 years. These are people who have been paying taxes, raising families and working hard in a country they love. We need them to keep our economy going. Then I hope he will pardon his son, Hunter Biden.

Elizabeth Korevaar, Boulder, Colo.

President Joe Biden should protect the recipients of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program who came into the country as children. I fear they, who have known only the United States as home, will be deported. Look at the authority the Supreme Court just gave the president and use these expanded powers to help others.

Laura Thompson, Los Angeles

11th-hour clemency

President Joe Biden should use the remainder of his term to enact the Democratic platform under

which he was elected. He could close the Special Confinement Unit for federal death row inmates at Terre Haute, Ind., and commute the death sentences of all federal prisoners on death row.

Jack Payden-Travers, Winston-Salem, N.C.

First, I would like to see President Joe Biden pardon Hunter Biden. If Supreme Court justices can twist themselves into pretzels to excuse Donald Trump's crimes, the president can legitimately pardon his son. Second, I would like Mr. Biden to give federal employees a 10 percent pay raise. They have long deserved it. Third, I would like him to give the Presidential Medal of Freedom to Taylor Swift.

Steven Glazer, Edgewater

Revamp political participation

He should make the Tuesday after the first Monday in November a federal holiday.

Nancy Roll, Albuquerque

He should educate the public on the integrity of our elections. Our democracy cannot afford for either nominee or political party to cast doubt on the results of the presidential election. As a poll worker in Virginia, I know how careful we are to ensure all votes are counted and there is no fraud.

Fran Larkins, Fort Belvoir

He should continue making the case for the policies and legislation that have been enacted during his term. Another possible initiative, which 72 percent of voters support, is strengthening campaign finance laws to eliminate dark money and huge donations by large corporations and the uber-wealthy, drowning out the voices of ordinary citizens.

Ted Knapke, Columbus, Ohio

Accelerate climate action

The idea dearest to my heart is the program in the Build Back Better plan to bring back the Civilian Conservation Corps, modernized for today's young Americans. Homelessness and poverty are real issues for young people that extend far beyond minority groups, although they are being hit the hardest. Young people need respectable jobs and the skills to do them. Their families need help getting them safely into adulthood. They need a secure place to live and learn. The CCC gave training, a place to live, and a salary that could be saved or sent home to help recipients' families. These efforts contributed to public art and preserved our forests during the Great Depression. This program prepared young men (and too few women in a counterpart program) to be

ready when the call came to fight fascism and protect the country when World War II came along. Without these fresh adults, we might not have succeeded.

Celeste Pettijohn, Tampa Bay, Fla.

It is my sincere hope that President Joe Biden will focus on correcting the environmental challenges we humans have imposed on our home, the Earth. Our oceans are warming, our forests are suffering, and we are still using way too much fossil fuel. I'd like to see Mr. Biden set up an organization that could have student loan recipients pay back their loans by working for our planet for several years.

Carol Ecklund, Ventura, Calif.

I would urge President Joe Biden and Congress to enact legislation to protect the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Environmental Protection Agency from being dissolved, along with legislation prohibiting the sale of any and all public lands.

Debra Combelic, Longmont, Colo.

Unfettered by the need to campaign, President Joe Biden should reinforce climate actions, including advancing electric vehicle subsidies, solidifying Corporate Average Fuel Economy standards and mandating solar panels on all new construction. Diplomatically, he should direct most of his energies to the Israel-Hamas conflict. The time is ripe to resolve this — and to plan for the future of Gaza, finally.

Dan Wasil, Mariposa, Calif.

President Joe Biden should accelerate investment in clean energy and electric vehicle infrastructure (which is taking too long), push for investments in manufacturing, continue the process of slowing illegal border crossings, bring a cease-fire to Gaza, and make sure our election process works and is secure.

Frank Walter, Washington

Lift the Cuba embargo

This is an excellent opportunity to end the (no longer productive) embargo on Cuba. Its dissolution would benefit both countries and improve the Organization of American States' environment in the Western Hemisphere. Sixty-two years is beyond too long. This would be a big legacy item for Mr. Biden.

David Thomas, Mount Joy, Pa.

Make housing, health care affordable

The United States' affordable-housing crisis, which has existed for many years, is only getting worse. If

only President Joe Biden could use some of those kingly powers granted to him by the Supreme Court to issue executive orders lowering rents and prohibiting corporations from buying residential property.

Anne Johnson, Riverside, Calif.

President Joe Biden should increase the minimum wage to \$15 an hour by 2027, restore supplementary child-care funding for low-income households, raise the upper-income limit for the Affordable Care Act to 500 percent of the poverty level and fund that by reducing the maximum federal Medicaid match to 60 percent for all states.

Roderick O'Connor, Ridley Park, Pa.

Legalize cannabis

President Joe Biden should legalize cannabis and push for fair and equal banking for the cannabis industry. He should also bring the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act to the forefront. (At the very least, he should deschedule cannabis.)

Carla Lilley, Pittsboro, N.C.

Take control of AI and conflict

President Joe Biden should end the war in Gaza or at least bring about a cease-fire. He should allow Ukraine to use more weapons to attack Russia, bring the U.S. southern border under better control, formulate rules on artificial intelligence and continue to press China about aiding the Russian military in Ukraine.

Gary Taelman, Oyster Bay, N.Y.

Join the front lines in Ukraine

Since the Supreme Court has given presidents nearly unfettered authority to do what they think is important to their duties, I think President Joe Biden should do the unthinkable: personally lead the 82nd and 101st Airborne Divisions onto the front lines in Ukraine. Doing so would make him the first commander in chief on the front lines in more than 200 years. He should make the case that America's long-term strategic interest is in showing the world's authoritarians that we will not put up with their bluster, their arrogance and their cowardly deeds. America can either push back against the bullies in a place like Ukraine or wait until we have to do it in Iowa. I think we are in a Churchillian moment with no Churchill in the wings. The question is: Will Mr. Biden use the time he has and the authority he has been given to do something no politician would dare but a true statesman might?

James Douglas, San Francisco

OPINION

DAVID IGNATIUS

Mideast edges toward conflict no side wants

With Israel and Iran on the edge of a devastating regional war that neither country seems to want, the United States is playing a risky game of brinkmanship — massing a military force to defend Israel and, if it fails, perhaps join in an attack on Iran.

For Biden administration officials who have tried for months to de-escalate the conflict in Gaza, it's a scary moment. "Multiple red indicator lights are now flashing," writes Norman Roule, a former top CIA expert on Iran. "I've never seen the region so fragile and on the cusp of so many conflicts."

Wars often result from a fundamental conflict of national interests. That's part of what's triggering this confrontation between Israel and Iran. But it's also driven by intangible factors: Israel's desire to restore deterrence and Iran's determination to preserve its national dignity.

This confrontation might have begun with a mistake. U.S. officials believe that Israeli leaders didn't expect Iran to retaliate directly for the assassination of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh during his visit to Tehran last month. He was killed by a concealed explosive, with no telltale fingerprints. But Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Iran's supreme leader, treated the attack on a guest as an Israeli insult that required retaliation.

"We consider it our duty to seek revenge for his blood as he was martyred in the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran," Khamenei said in a statement. Whether and how Iran will carry out its leader's command is unclear to U.S. officials, but they are taking the threat very seriously.

This wasn't the first time this year that Israel appeared to have misjudged Iran's determination to avenge a grievance. U.S. officials believe that Israel similarly didn't expect direct Iranian retaliation when it attacked several top Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps commanders who were visiting Damascus in April. But Iran struck back later that month with a barrage of more than 300 missiles and drones. Fortunately, most of them were intercepted, and the attack did little damage.

The best outcome to this crisis would be for both countries, prodded by the international community, to agree to a ceasefire in Gaza and to release Israeli hostages. This peace plan is backed by the U.N. Security Council, the Group of Seven and moderate Arab countries. Israel's defense and security establishment supports it, and Hamas has dropped its main objection. The chief holdout has been Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who continues to seek "total victory" in Gaza — which Defense Minister Yoav Gallant says is unrealistic.

President Joe Biden, joined by the leaders of Egypt and Qatar, who have been his mediating partners, has called for a resumption of negotiations on Thursday "to close all remaining gaps." But even administration officials aren't sure whether that invitation will draw the parties toward a final deal or a rejection that could spark a wider conflict.

If diplomacy fails, the Biden administration is betting that it can repeat the defensive wizardry that deflected the Iranian missile and drone assault in February. The Pentagon has dispatched what officials say is the biggest force sent to the region in many years, including two aircraft carriers, many guided-missile destroyers, F-22 fighters and an attack submarine carrying powerful conventional missiles that could devastate Iran's cities. If Iran strikes Israel, the United States might threaten to use this vast force if Iran doesn't immediately halt attacks.

The danger this time is that Iran might have learned from its failure to penetrate U.S. and Israeli defenses in April — and has devised new tactics. Iran might also hope to overwhelm the defenders by combining its barrage with an even larger missile assault from Hezbollah in Lebanon, as well as attacks by proxy forces in Iraq, Syria and Lebanon. The Middle East today is like the proverbial row of dominoes. Once one falls, it could trigger a cascade that would sweep the region.

Though Israel and Iran often seem locked in an existential conflict, Biden administration officials believe that both countries have been trying to avoid all-out war since Hamas attacked Israel on Oct. 7. Hezbollah began firing rockets on Israel the next day, but rarely against civilian targets; Israel has responded forcefully, with targeted killings of many Hezbollah leaders, but not a full-scale attack on its stronghold in the southern suburbs of Beirut.

As administration officials assess the situation, they hope that Iran and Israel are both seeking a measured response. Iran must act to redeem its dignity — but not so aggressively that it invites a reprisal that would threaten the Iranian economy and the regime itself. Israel, too, wants to demonstrate resolve without inviting a mass-casualty attack that would bring on a regionwide explosion of violence.

Strategists like to speak about ladders of escalation as if they can see each rung and measure every step. But, as Roule warns, "We should all be concerned that the region is moving into truly unknown territory." The United States has been trying to stop this war, but it could get drawn in just the same.



Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump arrives for a campaign rally in Bozeman, Mont., Friday.

EUGENE ROBINSON

Dazed and confused on the campaign trail

Former president Donald Trump's ongoing meltdown over his changed electoral prospects is becoming genuinely bizarre. It is foolish to underestimate him, but this doesn't come off as any kind of subtle gambit in a game of three-dimensional chess. It looks and sounds like angry, disoriented flailing that inflicts more self-harm than damage on his opponents.

Trump's frustration is not without cause. Recent polls show that Vice President Kamala Harris has erased the lead Trump had over President Joe Biden, and the RealClearPolitics, polling average — often more generous to Trump than some other aggregators — on Monday had Harris nosing into the lead. Perhaps more galling, Harris and her running mate, Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz, have been barnstorming the swing states and drawing the kind of huge, enthusiastic crowds that Trump boasted he alone could muster.

That might be the reason for Trump's transparently false and really strange Truth Social post on Sunday that claimed "there was nobody there" at a rally Harris and Walz held last week at Detroit's airport. In fact, as documented by news photographers and television crews, an estimated 15,000 supporters greeted and cheered the Democratic candidates. A crowd that size is hard to miss.

Right-wing conspiracy theorists had posted a photograph of one of Air Force Two's shiny engines, claiming that a dim reflection showed there was no crowd at all when Harris and Walz arrived, and that the images of the event were created by artificial intelligence. This kind of paranoid, fantasy-based nonsense gets put out there all

the time by unscrupulous provocateurs for whom lying is a business model. But it was unusual that Trump would expose himself to ridicule by endorsing a lie that lacked even the slightest whiff of plausibility.

That followed a post last week that laid out an unhinged predictive scenario: Biden, angry that his "presidency was Unconstitutionally STOLEN" by Harris, somehow "CRASHES the Democrat National Convention and tries to take back the Nomination." I understand why Trump was happier when he was running against Biden, but friends and family really ought to tell him that those halcyon days are gone.

Other recent Trump posts have been more like the falsehoods and distortions we're accustomed to. He maintained that he is "doing really well in the Presidential Race, leading in almost all of the REAL polls." (Apparently, any poll that finds him not doing well — such as the New York Times surveys reporting that he now trails Harris in Michigan, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania — are, by definition, not real.) He also posted that three debates with Harris are scheduled, though both campaigns have only agreed to one.

Away from social media, Trump's public statements have become increasingly divorced from reality. And, yes, I know that's saying a lot.

At a rally Friday in Montana, Trump said the following: "Kamala Harris, you know, it's interesting, nobody really knows her last name. If you ask people, 'Do you know what her last name is?' nobody has any idea what it is. Harris, it's like Harris. I don't know, how the hell did this happen?"

Whoa. She gets her name from her father, Donald J. Harris, a retired Stanford University economics professor. Surely Trump knows that. Was he obliquely returning to his laughable contention that the vice president, whose mother was South Asian, is somehow not authentically Black — even though her Jamaican-born father is a Black man whose ancestors were enslaved Africans? Or is Trump really puzzling over some "mystery" that exists only within the confines of his overheated imagination?

Or, maybe, it's that he sometimes forgets? This is clearly the case with a story he has been telling about Willie Brown, the former mayor of San Francisco and speaker of the California Assembly, whom Harris dated in the 1990s. In Trump's telling, he and Brown once took a helicopter ride together and Brown told him unspecified "terrible things" about Harris. Trump says he remembers the encounter vividly because the chopper had mechanical problems and had to make a white-knuckles emergency landing.

The problem is that Brown says he never rode in a helicopter with Trump, period. And a different man — former California state senator Nate Holden — says it was he who once accompanied Trump on a chopper, bound for Atlantic City, that had to put down due to a malfunction. A former Trump aide who was also on that trip confirmed to Politico that Holden was aboard and Brown was not. Both men are African American; otherwise, they look nothing alike.

Trump has not yet budged from his version. I will just note that when someone becomes confused and agitated, it is a blessing to suggest it might be time for a nap.

LEANA S. WEN

In Paris, TMZ was on the menu

For swimming fans like me, the Paris Olympics will be remembered for American Katie Ledecky becoming the most decorated female swimmer of all time and for hometown favorite Léon Marchand animating France with his four gold medal performances.

Sadly, it will also be forever tainted as the sporting event where 12 members of the Chinese swim team failed to be sanctioned after testing positive for banned substances — in some cases more than once.

Six of China's Paris medals were won by Zhang Yufei, who was among the 23 Chinese swimmers found to have trimetazidine (TMZ) in their system before the 2021 Olympic Games in Tokyo. TMZ, a heart medication, is a potent performance enhancer that is banned not only during competition but at all times because of its training benefits in increasing endurance and speeding up recovery. This was the same substance that led to a four-year suspension of Russian figure skater Kamila Valieva.

But Zhang was never punished. Chinese authorities, citing an investigation done by a government ministry with police powers, claimed that Zhang and her fellow athletes had inadvertently consumed TMZ from a hotel kitchen that was contaminated with the substance. Doping experts, including scientists from the World Anti-Doping Agency, deemed that scenario improbable. But even though WADA requires provisional suspension as well as public disclosure for positive tests, none of the athletes were suspended. In fact, the incident was handled so quietly that even WADA's own board was unaware until earlier this year. (WADA has repeatedly denied wrongdoing.)

This was not the only case decided behind closed doors in direct contraven-

tion of WADA's rules. The organization has since confirmed that three of the 23 athletes found to have TMZ in 2021 also tested positive for another banned substance, clenbuterol, in 2016 and 2017. These cases were also blamed on contamination, though, again, they were not disclosed and none of the athletes were suspended.

All three competed in the Tokyo Olympics in 2021 and in Paris. One of them, Wang Shun, won an individual bronze medal. Another, Yang Junxuan, participated in relays that won one silver and three bronze medals. And the third, Qin Haiyang, took part in two relays, one that won a silver and another that won gold, ahead of the second-place American team.

Consider also new details that have emerged since the Paris Olympics began. The New York Times reported that in 2022, two more elite Chinese swimmers tested positive for metandienone, a banned anabolic steroid favored by bodybuilders. Like TMZ and clenbuterol, metandienone comes with a mandatory four-year suspension and public disclosure.

In this case, the two swimmers were sanctioned, but strangely, the punishment was meted behind closed doors and the suspension was subsequently reversed. Chinese authorities once again blamed contamination, this time citing steroid-containing hamburgers from a Beijing restaurant.

Journalists from ARD, a German national broadcaster, investigated whether such a contamination scenario is plausible. Chinese authorities alleged that the tainted meat came from New Zealand and Australia, but both countries have strict food controls. No athlete from these countries has tested positive for metandienone because of eating meat. And this is not a substance used in agriculture, though it is a notorious performance enhancer. Multi-

ple sprinters have been banned because of it, and an Iraqi judoka was recently suspended at the Paris Games after testing positive.

One of the swimmers who had metandienone in his system in 2022, He Junyi, was among those found to have TMZ the year before. The other, Tang Muhan, was part of the relay team that set a world record and won gold in Tokyo. Her 2022 sanction appeared to be cleared in time for her to compete in Paris, where she won a bronze medal for a relay.

China's anti-doping authority, Chinada, in response to the Times's reporting that it has "adhered to a firm stance of 'zero tolerance' for doping." In Paris, many Chinese swimmers declined to speak to reporters on advice from their national team. Those who did were defiant and defensive. "Why should Chinese swimmers be questioned when they swim fast?" remarked Zhang, who has netted 10 Olympic medals since testing positive for TMZ. "Why did no one dare to question USA's Michael Phelps when he got eight gold medals?"

The difference, of course, is that Phelps — and Ledecky, Marchand and countless other athletes — never tested positive for a banned substance. They didn't have numerous teammates who also failed drug tests, some more than once, but were somehow cleared despite circumstances that strain credulity.

Although it is possible some Chinese swimmers never doped and won their Olympic races fairly, their results, too, are under a cloud of suspicion. They will have an asterisk next to their name whether they deserve it or not. And elite swimmers around the world will be left wondering whether they lost to people who cheated the system, with the complicity of anti-doping authorities.

ADAM LASHINSKY

Remembering Susan Wojcicki's garage

In 2015, the year after she became CEO of YouTube, Susan Wojcicki and I talked onstage at a business conference in Aspen, Colo. She told me beforehand that she could track her career at Google with the birth of each of her five children. It seemed that every time she became pregnant, she explained, she found herself in a new role at the company.

Noting the size of her family and the arc of her career, I asked her to describe each phase. She was pregnant with her eldest, she said, when she joined Google in 1999. The second corresponded with her role in helping build Google's advertising business, the third with its acquisition of YouTube and the fourth with its purchase of DoubleClick, an advertising technology company. She became CEO of YouTube, her fifth and final career change at Google, following the birth of her youngest child. "Each baby," she said, "brings a good era of opportunity."

Wojcicki's death Friday from lung cancer at age 56 marks the end of an era for Google and Silicon Valley. It cuts tragically short the life of a Silicon Valley leader who was a role model throughout her industry and a link to her powerful company's earliest and humbler days. She was the rare tech-industry executive, even rarer as a woman in a male-dominated industry, who was universally liked. She was valued for her ability to communicate up and down the management ranks at Google, from its sometimes prickly founders to its employees, as well as with Google's many and often contentious partners.

A daughter of Silicon Valley itself, Wojcicki grew up in what is now regarded as old-time Palo Alto, a place and time before tech's outsized wealth converted a sleepy suburb and university town into the playground of the super-rich and famous. Her mother was a journalist and teacher, her father a Stanford physicist. She was working at Intel when she rented her garage to two friends, Larry Page and Sergey Brin, Stanford graduate students who had left school to build a search engine start-up.

The Valley is full of bright and talented people who believe they are infinitely brighter and more talented than they are simply because they landed at a fabulously valuable technology company. Other than having been at the right place at the right time by providing housing to the still-wet-behind-the-ears Page and Brin, Wojcicki wasn't like that. Even as Google employee No. 16, Wojcicki remained grounded and approachable long after Google grew massive and she joined its management team.

Early on, she paid attention to the well-being of employees, advocating benefits such as maternity leave and child care. "She cared about people," a longtime executive told me Saturday. "In many ways, she was the soul of Google."

She was a key business leader, too. It's easy to forget now that for years YouTube was considered a costly dalliance for Google, an unprofitable diversion into the world of "content" that was insignificant compared with the rest of the company's business. Under Wojcicki's leadership, YouTube navigated an important shift from desktop to mobile-phone viewing and became a giant streaming service, including its cable-killing YouTube TV offering. It dealt seriously, if not always successfully, with the thorny issue of keeping harmful and hateful messages off its platform, a challenge Wojcicki attended to personally.

For all her wealth and success, Wojcicki and her husband, Dennis Troper, a longtime Google employee, knew tragedy, too. In February, their 19-year-old son, Marco, a freshman at the University of California at Berkeley, died of a drug overdose. This came about a year after Wojcicki had stepped down as YouTube's CEO, citing a desire to focus on "family, health, and personal projects." In a Facebook post, her husband said she had battled cancer for two years.

Having covered the Valley for 25 years, I've known my share of blowhards, egoists and fakers. Wojcicki was none of those. She was about excellence. Attending a book party for writer Nora Ephron at the home of Sheryl Sandberg, a former Google executive, I remember parking my car on the street at the same moment Wojcicki was parking hers. As Wojcicki got out, she was on the phone, polishing and repolishing the questions she was going to put to Ephron, herself a fierce defender of women and a leader in her field.

It struck me then that this was how Wojcicki approached everything she did: seriously, purposely, respectfully. She made the most of a bountiful career and a large family, and she was going to make the most of spending a few minutes with a woman she admired.

May her memory be a blessing. But it should also be a lesson: Wojcicki's way of approaching life is one that Silicon Valley, and the corporate world in general, would benefit from emulating.

After far-right riots, Brits of color fear for their safety

BY JENNIFER HASSAN

LONDON — For many Muslims and people of color in Britain, riots led by far-right protesters in recent weeks, some demanding “we want our country back,” roused feelings of insecurity in a country that is home.

“They were emboldened once, so who is not to say there won’t be flash points again?” said Dhruvi Shah, a British-born citizen of Indian and Kenyan heritage, referring to those who committed anti-immigrant violence.

After weeks of disorder, there was a partial reprieve Wednesday, as more than 100 anti-immigrant protests expected around the nation were met with huge counterprotests — a show of anti-racism that stifled the far right. Peaceful protesters carried signs that read “Refugees welcome” and “Racists not welcome here.”

But British authorities have warned that further unrest could be possible. Even if the anti-racists have numbers on their side, the violent protests highlight that there is a passionate minority who feel emboldened to display anti-immigrant and racist views.

At least some members of that minority were willing to engage in violence, which began after a stabbing attack that led to the deaths of three young children in Southport, England, last month. Before the attacker was formally identified, misinformation about his identity and migration status swirled online.

The defendant, Axel Rudakubana, 17, is a British citizen born in Cardiff, Wales, to parents from Rwanda. He is not an asylum seeker and did not enter the country illegally, as some on social media falsely claimed.

In recent weeks, far-right protesters have attacked a hotel housing asylum seekers, and assaulted police officers and first responders. Bricks and gasoline bombs were launched at mosques, while police shared footage of a Muslim bus driver who was racially abused and spat at as he worked.

Some elected officials have voiced their own safety concerns. Former Scottish first minister Humza Yousaf told a podcast last week that the riots made him question whether he wanted to stay in Britain.

Yousaf, a Muslim born in Glasgow to Pakistani immigrants, said he has “for some time” been “worried about the rise of Islamophobia.”

“The truth of the matter is, I don’t know if the future for me, my wife and my three children is going to be here in Scotland or the United Kingdom or indeed in Europe and the West,” he said.



Far-right protesters walk alongside officers on horseback Aug. 2 in Sunderland, England. Such demonstrations erupted across Britain after three girls were fatally stabbed.

Yousaf said he had received “hundreds” of messages from Muslim families expressing the “exact same” concerns.

Shah, 42, said the riots stole attention from the three girls who were killed and the other victims of the stabbing attack. While the counterprotests and displays of unity were “heartwarming,” she added, they do not mean the issue of racism in Britain has “gone away.”

As of Sunday, more than 700 people had been arrested nationwide in relation to the unrest.

The British government is offering mosques new emergency security that can be deployed rapidly in a crisis, a move welcomed by the Muslim Council of Britain.

“Communities are feeling really, really vulnerable,” Zara Mohammed, secretary general of the council, said in an interview with Times Radio last week, adding that despite the reassurance that came with the counterprotests, many Muslim and minority com-

munities still feel “fear and anxiety.”

“This is the first time I’ve ever felt vulnerable because of my skin color,” said Amy, a 34-year-old teacher in London whose mother is British and White and whose father is Nigerian and Black. Amy spoke on the condition that she be identified only by her first name because of safety concerns.

For Amy, the far-right violence was both “terrifying” and “sad.”

The fact that Wednesday’s protests were expected in so many locations, she said, made the fear more palpable. That day, she arranged for a family member to drive her home after a trip to the seaside. Normally, she would take a train, but with a protest expected in the Walthamstow area in northeast London, she was concerned for her safety.

Social media posts about the possible unrest were “overwhelming,” Amy said, adding that she was concerned for her students, who would probably be feeling unsafe in their communi-

ties or considering taking to the streets to defend their beloved area.

For the first time in three decades, she said, she briefly considered moving out of Walthamstow.

In some areas, including Walthamstow, patients received text messages advising that their doctor’s office would close early Wednesday to avoid “threatened disruption.” Nationwide, many shops, restaurants and pubs boarded their windows and doors. Some theater shows were canceled.

“Now is the time to please check in on your Black, Brown and minority friends, family, neighbors and colleagues,” London Mayor Sadiq Khan wrote on X. “In many parts of the country, they don’t feel safe.”

Khan later told the Guardian he was “triggered” by the far-right riots. “What’s heartbreaking to me is my children’s generation had never experienced what I had,” he said. “And they, for the

first time, were scared. I thought I’d be the last generation to be scared, simply for who I am.”

Shah said Sunday that the situation in Britain had exposed deep cracks not only in society but also in some friend groups. “I got told off by a White friend who suggested I made them feel uncomfortable by talking about it,” she said. “I said, ‘Well, now you know what it’s like for people of color in this country.’”

Shah said she felt it was important for allies to support their friends of color and speak out against racism, adding that the unrest had brought clarity to her friendship groups: “You know who has your back.”

Shah, a journalist from West London, ordinarily enjoys a walk around her neighborhood in the evening. But on Wednesday, she stayed home, urging her parents to do the same. Some in Shah’s family, who belong to the Jain faith, left a gathering early to get home as they were afraid they might get caught up in far-right

protests. “Why is it,” she asked, “simply because of the color of my skin, that I am having to have conversations with my family about being careful when we go outside?”

Amy, meanwhile, has been wondering if she did the right thing by not attending Walthamstow’s counterprotests Wednesday. One of her White friends reassured her, saying, “It’s not for you to go; it’s for us to show up in the places where you don’t feel safe.”

Amy said images of anti-racism protesters flooding the streets she knows so well made her especially proud of her diverse hometown. “My faith in London is restored,” she said. “It gave me a new love for Walthamstow. It made people of color and other minorities feel safe.”

Despite the threat of the far right descending, the people in Walthamstow made a defiant stand, she said. “They were like, ‘Absolutely not.’”

Assembly woes afflicted Boeing long before midair blowout, hearings show

Confusing instructions and supply chain issues hampered manufacturing

BY IAN DUNCAN AND LORI ARATANI

Details that emerged from last week’s Boeing hearings have made at least one thing clear: The company’s manufacturing problems persisted for years despite many warning signs.

Hours of testimony over two days of National Transportation Safety Board sessions, along with thousands of pages of newly published documents, show that Boeing struggled with its 737 Max assembly process long before a midair blowout left a hole in the fuselage of an Alaska Airlines flight in January.

Transcripts of interviews with Boeing workers and federal inspectors indicate that the circumstances that led to the Alaska Airlines incident did not stem simply from a single failure to reinstall a door plug’s bolts, but also reflect a flawed system.

Instructions for some processes were so convoluted that even the head of quality control found them confusing. Supply-chain issues forced workarounds such as reusing engines to transfer planes. Employees feared harsh penalties such as being reassigned to work in a “cage” over perceived missteps.

“Is it just me or are we seeing a game of whack-a-mole every five to 10 years on safety?” said board member J. Todd Inman, referring to previous instances where Boeing pledged to address its shortcomings. “What do you think will be different this time?”

Here are some key takeaways

from the NTSB hearings and accompanying documents.

Boeing’s problems are systemic

Boeing failed to ensure that removed parts were properly tracked, a topic that was the subject of repeated internal audits, employee complaints and FAA reviews.

FAA audits turned up examples where workers failed to follow Boeing’s written procedures. In some instances, federal inspectors said, the directions conflicted with what employees were taught during on-the-job training.

In one example, Boeing employees and FAA inspectors described the 50-plus pages of instructions for removing parts as long and confusing. The document had been revised 11 times since 2013, according to the NTSB, but never streamlined.

Even Elizabeth Lund, Boeing’s senior vice president for quality, struggled with it. “It was one of these things where I had to sort of go in a quiet room and read to myself several times,” she told investigators.

The large number of removed parts in combination with burdensome instructions risked creating a conflict between what’s supposed to be done and what actually happens on the factory floor, said Katie Ringgold, a vice president for the 737 program.

“Our call to action is make it easy, make it clear, make it simple, and expect it and hold people accountable to it,” Ringgold said.

One FAA inspector believes Boeing is sincere in its desire to improve. But that inspector also doubted the company’s ability to actually do it.

“From what I’ve seen is Boeing is very willing to get these issues addressed,” the inspector told

investigators. “The ‘able’ part I think is the one that’s in question because [of] the constant cycle of the repeated issues.”

Workers worry about speaking up

Aviation safety is built on the idea that people who make errors should be able to come forward without facing punishment so that problems can be fixed, an idea known as “just culture.” Despite a company policy that prohibits retaliation against employees who raise concerns, many workers say individuals are afraid to speak out or report safety concerns.

After the Alaska Airlines incident, two factory workers were shifted into jobs off the main production line. Lund described it as being transferred to a “lateral position.” The workers compared it to incarceration.

One of the reassigned workers told investigators in March that he had been put “literally in a jail, in a cage.”

“That’s where I’ve been the last 10 weeks and a half for eight hours a day,” he said.

It’s not clear that the workers were responsible for any of the problems that led up to the blowout. NTSB leaders during the hearing questioned the treatment of Boeing employees.

“What sort of impression does that give your employees if you sideline them?” asked NTSB Chair Jennifer Homendy.

Company executive Paul J. Wright said he was not directly involved in the situation but that good faith mistakes should be addressed without imposing punishment. But Lloyd Catlin, a representative of the factory workers union, said the tactic was commonplace.

“It sends a very clear message to the entire workforce,” Catlin

said. “You mess up, you get moved.”

Production has seen repeated disruptions

According to a former FAA manager who spoke to investigators, when 737 Max production outpaced the engine supplier’s ability to meet demand five years ago, Boeing built planes without the engines and parked them at the factory until the missing components were available.

The factory ran out of space at one point. The solution? Fly extra planes to another facility, take the engines out and send them back on a truck for the next aircraft. “It was just ridiculous how bad it was,” the former manager said.

After two deadly crashes of 737 Max jets in 2018 and 2019, that model was grounded worldwide and aircraft piled up in storage. Production slowed and then the coronavirus pandemic took hold. The result, according to multiple witnesses, was a huge turnover in the company’s workforce.

Lund said employees the company hired as it tried to increase production in recent years often did not have previous aviation experience. One Boeing employee who leads production teams during the final stage of 737 Max assembly traced the problem to the company’s elimination of pensions for nonunion employees, which happened in the 2010s.

“A lot of the seasoned, experienced people retired when we got rid of our pension,” the employee told investigators. “Trying to retain or bring back that knowledge well ... now we’re trying to build up our forces again, and I think that our past experiences still kind of haunt us.”

Boeing increased the amount of formal training new employ-

ees receive, enhanced on-the-job training and matched new workers with mentors, but managers said it’s not enough.

“We were hearing from the floor, particularly some of the experienced employees, these employees just don’t know enough coming out of training,” Lund said.

Checking on Boeing is hard

During the safety board’s two-day hearing, the FAA also faced questions about its oversight of Boeing, which increased following the Alaska Airlines accident.

But FAA officials told NTSB members that even as they ramp up their efforts to monitor Boeing, the complexity of its manufacturing system makes it hard to ensure that corrective actions solve problems at all facilities.

While inspectors said their relationship with Boeing was generally good, one FAA employee told NTSB investigators there were sometimes issues with access: “I don’t know if [it’s] my schedule, [but] just lately when we show up to do [an] audit and say you want to look at a specific thing, you are told ‘Oh, this is a non-workday’ and ‘They’re not working that job today,’ or ‘That’s only done on the second shift, or that’s done on the third shift.’”

One FAA inspector said he wished the agency had more people. “The biggest challenge about my job is just right now, the sheer amount of work at the plant,” the inspector told investigators. “It’s a juggling act.”

What’s next?

The NTSB’s final report on the Alaska Airlines blowout is expected to take a year to 18 months to complete.

As for Boeing, newly installed CEO Robert “Kelly” Ortbeg sent

a message to employees on Thursday, his first official day on the job, about the importance of restoring trust in the company’s work. “People’s lives depend on what we do every day and we must keep that top of mind with every decision we make,” he wrote.

Citing the importance of being close to production lines and the commercial airplane programs, Ortbeg said he will be based in Seattle, rather than at Boeing’s corporate headquarters in Arlington, Va.

He already faces several urgent tasks. The company is awaiting word on whether a federal judge will sign off on the plea agreement it reached with the Justice Department in connection with fatal crashes of 737 Max jets that killed 346 people in 2018 and 2019. As part of the deal, Boeing has agreed to plead guilty to one felony fraud charge.

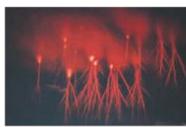
Meanwhile, the company is at odds with NASA over whether its Starliner spacecraft is safe enough to carry two astronauts back home from the International Space Station. Last week, the space agency said it might need to turn to Boeing rival SpaceX to help get the pair back home.

Boeing also is in negotiations with its largest labor union, the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers District 751, whose contract expires in September. In July, union members, who play key roles in assembling and inspecting 737 Max and 777 aircraft, voted overwhelmingly to authorize a strike if their demands for higher wages and better working conditions are not met.

But Ortbeg’s biggest task will be convincing federal regulators that Boeing can build safe airplanes so that limits on 737 Max production can be lifted.

8 a.m. 71°
Noon 79°
4 p.m. 83°
8 p.m. 78°
High today at approx. 4 p.m. **83°**
Precip: 5%
Wind: NNW 6-12 mph

CAPITAL WEATHER GANG
Red “sprites,” which occur above thunderstorms, provide lights and action for some shutterbugs. **B6**



VIRGINIA
The Loudoun County sheriff is investigating a burglary at the Trump campaign office. **B3**



OBITUARIES
Paul Bucha, 80, was a Medal of Honor recipient who saved a unit under siege in Vietnam. **B4**

Allen recall effort fails to move on in District

Petitioners cite crime vexing Ward 6 but don't gather enough signatures

BY MEAGAN FLYNN

An effort to recall D.C. Council member Charles Allen (D-Ward 6) has failed to gather enough signatures to qualify for the ballot, capping a divisive campaign that often sought to blame Allen for carjackings and homicides in Ward 6 as residents reeled from last year's crime spike.

The campaign began with a bang this winter, powered by a group of Democrats with political chops and attracting residents fed up with crime in areas like Capitol Hill and Navy Yard. But it drew intense opposition from Allen's supporters, who saw the recall as a misguided attempt to blame a single official for a much larger problem while offering no solutions or alternative candidate.

The campaign gathered about 5,500 signatures, short of the 6,225 required. Yet in a last-ditch request that is unlikely to succeed, the campaign is asking the D.C. Board of Elections to put the recall on the ballot anyway, accusing the board of failing to provide a mobile app outlined in D.C. law to be used for signature collection.

“With the aid of the required mobile application to collect petition signatures — a significantly

SEE RECALL ON B3

Gold bar scams hit hard in Md. suburb

BY DAN MORSE

The elaborate scam is taking place nationwide. Fraudsters pose as federal agents, finding targets online or over the phone. They tell them their bank accounts are no longer safe. And eventually, after several communications, the swindlers persuade their targets to buy pricey gold bars and hand them over for safekeeping.

And in Montgomery County, — with large pockets of wealth — the scam is hitting hard.

At least seven victims, authorities said Monday, have given up \$6.3 million in gold bars over the last year — gold bars that they've never seen again. And that is just the cases for which there have been arrests. The number of actual victims, authorities said, is probably much higher.

“The scammers have preyed on peoples' sensibilities and believing that they are talking to a federal agent,” Montgomery County Police detective Sean Petty said, “and that that federal agent is here to

SEE GOLD ON B3



MICAH E. WOOD FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

In Bel Air, Md., ‘there was simply nothing left’

Ray Corkran Jr., a 73-year-old homeowner, was scheduled to have an open house for his Bel Air, Md., home on Sunday. But the sun had barely begun to shine when his home exploded, killing Corkran and a utility worker after authorities responded for a reported gas leak, according to the Maryland Office of the State Fire Marshal.

Officials on Monday offered more details into the explosion that displaced about a dozen families and left a pile of rubble in the middle of the suburban Maryland neighborhood, identifying the other victim as 35-year-old Jose Rodriguez-Alvarado, a Baltimore Gas

NEIGHBORS DESCRIBE SCENE

Homeowner, utility worker killed in blast

BY JASMINE HILTON AND EMMA UBER

& Electric contractor.

The National Transportation Safety Board, which investigates pipeline accidents involving the transport of natural gas and other hazardous liquids, also said Monday it is investigating the blast and will be in the area for about a week to examine the pipeline involved.

“Our hearts are broken for the two victims and their families. Our team of highly qualified investigators and our partners at ATF are dedicated to providing an answer that will lead to safer communities,” acting Maryland

SEE BEL AIR ON B2

Workers from the National Transportation Safety Board, which investigates pipeline accidents involving the transport of natural gas and other hazardous liquids, examine the blast site on Monday.

Lacrosse returns to Olympics in '28, and Marylanders are stoked



Petula Dvorak

It really hit Spencer Ford, as the world said goodbye to the Paris Olympic Games on Sunday, how big 2028 is going to be.

“Watching the Closing Ceremonies last night and seeing Tom Cruise and Snoop Dogg and Dr. Dre, and then realizing, ‘Oh, my God, lacrosse is going to be there,’” Ford, 48, a former professional lacrosse player who missed any chance of Olympic glory in a sport he has played for 44 years,

said of its return to the Olympics in 2028 in Los Angeles. “This is going to be awesome.”

Lacrosse is one of the fastest-growing high school sports — and the fastest-growing collegiate sport — in the United States, and its return means a huge vibe shift in a sport that hasn't dominated the world stage but totally devours suburban families' lives across the nation.

Nearly every high school in Maryland has a lacrosse team. And while there are world championships and international competition (Japan is fast becoming a force,

Ford said), the Olympic shine has been elusive. Until now.

And this means Ford will finally have a real shot at seeing his name on an Olympic lacrosse jersey. Sort of.

His son, Spencer Ford Jr., will be a freshman player on the University of Maryland lacrosse team this fall and can realistically have that dream of Olympic glory.

Here's the next important piece in this story — this is super big in Maryland.

You see, Maryland was in a little bit of conflict when it came to sports. Since 1962, the state's

official sport had been jousting, which was problematic on numerous levels. How many scholarships were available for Division I jousting? Would pee-wee jousting be played on Labradoodles?

Official-sport designations make perfect sense in states such as California (surfing), Texas (rodeo) and Alaska (dog mushing).

Native Americans invented lacrosse centuries ago, and by the last of the 1800s Canadian settlers took it on as a national sport. Then it moved into schools in New England and the Mid-

Atlantic. Today, Maryland schools and players have dominated national rankings and almost every community has a lacrosse team.

“Everyone comes to Maryland to play lacrosse; they come here for all our tournaments,” said Ford, whose mom put him on a lacrosse team when he was 4 years old.

Maryland lacrosse fans tried for years to unseat the jousters, usually blocked by then-Senate President Thomas V. Mike Miller Jr., whose great-great grandfather was a champion

SEE DVORAK ON B2

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Twelve families displaced by blast as authorities investigate explosion

BEL AIR FROM B1

state fire marshal Jason M. Mowbray said in a statement.

White fluff floated through the air and coated the lawns and trees of Arthur Woods Drive on Monday. Most of the debris had been cleared from the street and a tall chain-link fence had been erected around the property.

Inside the fence, a Chesapeake Realty Services sign hung from a singed wooden pole, advertising a home for sale. The piles of rubble surrounding the sign offered the only evidence a home had once stood on the property.

According to the Maryland Office of the State Fire Marshal, firefighters responded at about 6:40 a.m. for a reported outside gas leak at 2300 Arthur Woods Drive. During the response, Harford County 911 also received calls that the house had exploded, the office said in the news release.

The blast injured a next-door neighbor and killed Corkran, who was believed to be inside the home at the time of the explosion, and Rodriguez-Alvarado, officials said.

Efforts to reach relatives of Corkran and Rodriguez-Alvarado were unsuccessful.

Baltimore Gas & Electric said in a statement that contractors were at the scene at the time of the incident responding to an "electric service matter." Crews responded to assist the fire department with the subsequent response and investigation, the statement said.

Master Deputy State Fire Marshal Oliver Alkire said Monday the cause remains under investigation. In a statement, the fire marshal's office said they are focusing on "accidental causes" and no evidence of criminal activity has been found.

There have been no prior reports of gas leaks at the home,

Alkire said.

When the boom jolted 37-year-old Marshall Garrett awake Sunday morning, he hastily pulled on some clothes, met a neighbor outside and drove toward the noise.

When they reached the explosion just one street over from Garrett's home, he said it felt surreal. In the past, a neighbor's home had caught fire and he had seen the damage to the building's structure. This time was different, he said — there was no structure left at all.

"Once we got down there and saw that the whole thing was not there, there's no run in and get a pet out or anything like that because there was simply nothing left," Garrett said. "It seemed like a movie where you blow the thing up and it's just gone."

The air was cloudy with dry-wall dust and insulation, Garrett said. The windows of neighboring homes were completely demolished and fire began snaking out of the rubble. Garrett said he looked for ways to help, but once he saw neighbors had all evacuated and heard the sirens of approaching fire trucks, he headed back home.

"We wanted to help, but at the same time we didn't want to gawk," Garrett said. "We didn't want to just be watching people suffer so we came back here."

According to the Office of the State Fire Marshal, the damage is expected to cost millions. Twelve families were displaced from their homes.

Neighbor Amanda Murray was asleep in bed with her husband and their 3-year-old son when the explosion jolted them awake around 6:40 a.m. Sunday. The 28-year-old mother said she instantly reached for her son, then bolted to make sure her 5-month-old daughter was all right.

"It was the scariest moment of my life," Murray said. "I thought

my heart was going to come out of my chest when it was happening because everything was shaking, it was so loud, I've never experienced anything like it."

Groggy and confused, Murray said she could not tell what happened until her husband ran outside and saw smoke and clouds of debris rising from the street over.

"We thought it was a bomb or a plane crash because our house was shaking so bad and it was so loud," Murray said.

Dozens of residents from the neighboring street gathered outside in their pajamas and slippers around 6:45 a.m. Sunday, making sure everyone was unhurt and attempting to piece together what happened. Murray said the crowd stood on the street corner and watched as a parade of ambulances, fire trucks and police cars streaked by. Once they returned home, Murray said many began to realize that even a street over from the blast their homes had been damaged.

By Monday, Murray's front window had been boarded up in an attempt to keep cool air in the house as the family waits for repairs. The sliding-glass door had been popped out of its frame, the front siding had been damaged and cracks ran down some of the walls.

While Murray isn't pleased by the damages, she knows her family is among the lucky ones. In the day after the explosion, she said she keeps thinking of how she would take her kids on walks past the home and always say hello to the dog lounging in the garage.

A listing for Corkran's home that was archived on Aug. 5 said the house was a "Lovingly Cared for and Professionally Maintained and Manicured home" that was "Beautiful Inside and Out."

It's at least the third instance of a home exploding in the Washington region in recent years. Earlier



PHOTOS BY MICAH E. WOOD FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

ABOVE: A window is boarded up just one block away from the blast site in Bel Air, Md. RIGHT: Marshall Garrett, 37, lives next door to the damaged home. "It seemed like a movie where you blow the thing up and it's just gone," he said.



this year a house explosion caused by a leaking propane tank killed a firefighter in Loudoun County. Late last year, a homeowner set off 35 gallons of gas to cause his house to explode, killing him.

Dozens of construction workers milled about the Harford County street Monday, while neighbors congregated to assess the damage to their homes. At the mouth of the road, a security team stopped incoming cars and asked drivers for proof they lived on the street in an attempt to limit gawking passersby.

By late Monday morning, the Office of the State Fire Marshal said in a statement that deputy state fire marshals and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Fire-

arms and Explosives had finished their investigation at the scene and turned it over to insurance representatives. Investigators will review collected evidence including gas and electrical piping, interviews, video surveillance and data from BGE.

In the aftermath of the explosion, Garrett said the community has rallied together. Kids played

outside together Monday afternoon as parents met with contractors. Garrett said the gas company came to inspect all appliances and a neighbor who owned a construction company offered to board up people's broken windows for free.

Aaron Schaffer contributed to this report.

PETULA DVORAK

Lax to the max: Lacrosse-obsessed Marylanders set sights on 2028 Olympics

DVORAK FROM B1

jouster.

"Everybody in Maryland knows lacrosse and nobody in Maryland doesn't know lacrosse," Del. Jon S. Cardin, who played prep school lacrosse and college lacrosse, said during a 2004 legislative push to designate lacrosse as Maryland's official sport.

Miller finally relented by coming up with a clever compromise (in the days when those things happened) by suggesting jousting remain the official sport and lacrosse become the official *team* sport.

"The Number 1, 2 and 3 teams in lacrosse in the nation are from Maryland," Miller said, according to a Baltimore Sun article written by David Nitkin about the 2004 legislation.

The sport's governing body, USA Lacrosse, is based in the Baltimore suburbs, and so is the Lacrosse Hall of Fame and Museum. And over the decades, men's and women's lacrosse teams in the state have consistently dominated national rankings.

So now that Maryland has owned international swimming (thank you, Katie Ledecky, Michael Phelps and others), the state is poised to dominate in another sport.

"The thing that is unique about lacrosse in Maryland is that it is such a part of the fabric of the culture," John Tillman, coach of the University of Maryland men's lacrosse team, told Hailey Deares in the Salisbury University Flyer.

"When you grow up almost every high school has it; it is so much a part of history," Tillman said. "It is emphasized like football in Texas, Florida or Ohio. Here it is lacrosse and it's really special to be a part of a place that generation after generation you are handed a stick and learn to play the game."

This was even true almost 100 years ago.

The Johns Hopkins Blue Jays were the lacrosse team that represented the United States in



SCOTT TAETSCH FOR THE WASHINGTON POST



GRAEME SLOAN FOR THE WASHINGTON POST



SPENCER FORD

the 1928 and 1932 Olympic Games, when it was a demonstration event. (Canada won gold the two times lacrosse was a medal sport, in 1904 and 1908; it was left out of the Games until returning as a demonstration event three times before disappearing after 1948.)

After decades of lobbying, the sport will finally be back at the Olympics, fittingly in Los Angeles.

Marc Riccio, who played lacrosse at Hofstra University, worked hard for this moment as the CEO of USA Lacrosse.

He can't wait, because now he can talk about Olympic dreams to the players who come to USA Lacrosse's training facility in Maryland.

"My words to them were: 'Some of you in this room will be Olympic athletes. Some of you in this room will walk out on the floor of the L.A. Coliseum and represent your country, represent your sport and USA Lacrosse in the sport that you love,'" he said.

"And there was this audible buzz in the room, and you could see some of the athletes just start to look at each other, and it became very real in that moment that no other athlete in lacrosse, at least in the last century, has been able to do this."

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: On March 16, the Maryland Terrapins men's lacrosse team takes the field before an NCAA game against the Virginia Cavaliers in College Park; Good Counsel player Hannah Rudolph enters the field as lineups are called before a Good Counsel-Bishop Ireton high school girls' game in Olney in April; and Spencer Ford Sr., a former pro lacrosse player, hopes his son, Spencer Jr., who will play at Maryland, will someday have a chance to fulfill his Olympic dream. Lacrosse is the fastest-growing sport among American college athletics, which is good news with the sport returning to the Olympics in 2028.



The Guide to Offers
The Washington Post

Enter for the chance to win a pair of tickets to Randy Rogers Band on August 24 at 9:30 Club

Fronted by singer-songwriter Randy Rogers and featuring Geoffrey Hill (guitar), Jon Richardson (bass guitar), Brady Black (fiddle), Les Lawless (drums) and Todd Stewart (guitar, fiddle, mandolin, keyboards), the Randy Rogers Band was founded in San Marcos, Texas, and has spent more than 20 years bringing the Texas Country tradition to dedicated fans far and wide. The band dropped album *Homecoming* in 2022. "The Randy Rogers Band is the compass point for what Texas country is, and Homecoming is as splendid of an example of it as any other, with striking appeal in every track, never letting you down, and exemplifying everything that Texas country is supposed to be" (savingcountrymusic.com).

See details at [washingtonpost.com/entertainment/events/lists/388](https://www.washingtonpost.com/entertainment/events/lists/388)



Group seeking recall of Allen over Ward 6 crime spike fails to advance petition

RECALL FROM B1

easier process than the burdensome task of collecting signatures on paper — the committee would certainly have gathered far more than the requisite number of signatures and succeeded in placing the recall petition on the ballot,” Jennifer Squires, chair of the Committee to Recall Charles Allen, argued in a letter to the D.C. Office of Campaign Finance, requesting an investigation into why the app wasn’t provided.

Monica Holman Evans, executive director of the Board of Elections, said there is nothing in the law to carry out what the recall campaign is asking.

She said the board had to stop offering the mobile petition tool in 2022, when it was discontinued by the third-party vendor that provided it. The board is looking for a solution, including building its own tool. But Evans doubts an app would have materially changed the outcome, saying the organizers had “some misunderstanding” about how the tool would have helped.

The only difference, she said, is that signature collectors would have been holding an iPad instead of a piece of paper as they collected signatures.

“So you’re still going through the exact same process on the

streets, door to door with people, collecting signatures,” Evans said. “It’s not like you can send out a mass [electronic] communiqué to collect signatures.”

Other measures have made it onto the ballot despite the absence of the mobile tool: A city-wide ballot initiative to allow ranked-choice voting in the city recently qualified for the November ballot after submitting significantly more signatures than required, without a mobile app.

In a statement to The Washington Post via text message, Allen said the “bad-faith recall effort has now failed by every measure,” while calling public safety his top priority.

“Ultimately, the recall organizers failed to appreciate that Ward 6 residents are thoughtful people looking for real solutions to our toughest problems, and they don’t respond to the fear and division we see play out every day on the national stage,” Allen wrote. “My neighbors also know that real problem solvers roll up their sleeves, they lead boldly and by lifting others up, and they try to build community instead of dividing it. That’s the Ward 6 I’m proud to call home and I’m honored to have represented for a decade.”

The recall campaign targeted Allen in his role as former chairman of the public safety and judi-



CRAIG HUDSON FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

The failed recall campaign was focused on D.C. Council member Charles Allen (D-Ward 6).

ciary committee until 2022, pointing to a \$15 million cut to the police budget in 2020 and various policies he led, such as an overhaul of the criminal code and legislation allowing 22- to 24-year-olds convicted of most crimes to be eligible for lenient

sentencing.

In a late July interview, recall campaign organizer Rich Masters said that whether the campaign was successful, organizers felt they had “already succeeded in sending a loud signal to the Wilson building” by forcing lawmakers

to rethink criminal justice — although Allen said in an interview that the recall did not change his approach, defending his policies.

The recall campaign raised about \$120,000 from a bipartisan network of supporters in and out-

side the ward, including D.C. Republicans who typically don’t have much opportunity to make a difference in the deep-blue city. But a pro-Allen countercampaign, Neighbors United for Ward 6, significantly outraised them, and by now, blue “Charles Allen Delivers for Ward 6” yard signs have far outnumbered the recall signs throughout the ward.

Tommy Wells, former Ward 6 council member and chairman of the pro-Allen group, filed multiple campaign finance complaints against the recall campaign with the Office of Campaign Finance, including asking the office to investigate whether it was improper for the D.C. Republican Party to send out mailers boosting the recall petitions. The recall campaign called his allegations of coordination “baseless” in a statement Monday.

A spokesman for the Office of Campaign Finance said late last month that the complaint remains under review.

The campaign against Allen was one of two recall efforts this year, with the other against Council member Brianna K. Nadeau (D-Ward 1), also over crime. That one is likewise not expected to succeed by its Oct. 1 deadline; in a recent interview, its organizers acknowledged significant hurdles.

Gold bar scams have cost Montgomery County victims more than \$6M this year

GOLD FROM B1

help them, protect them and to save them from being scammed by somebody else — when, in fact, they’re really being scammed by the individuals that they’re talking to.”

Petty and his federal counterparts spoke Monday at a news conference designed to bring more awareness to the swindles — both to potential victims, who so far have ranged from 61 to 94 years old — and their family members.

He said county investigators have been able to halt some of scams after targets became suspicious and called police before handing over more gold. Had they not done so, Petty said, the victims probably would have lost another \$3.3 million.

Petty said he would prefer that potential targets not answer calls

from unknown numbers. But if they do, he said, he warned them to be on the lookout for anyone holding themselves out to be federal agents who say they should convert assets to gold bars for holding. “It’s a scam,” Petty said. “One hundred percent it’s a scam. You are not going to get that gold back.”

There have been a string of recent arrests in several cases: An 82-year-old woman who handed over gold bars in a Wendy’s parking lot; a 74-year-old in Bethesda with memory loss who was conned out of \$1.1 million; a resident of Montgomery’s Leisure World community who has mental health disabilities. Court proceedings are pending against defendants in the cases.

“In general, the victims that we’ve seen have obviously felt devastated, ashamed,” Petty said.

“Ashamed is a major component of it. A lot of them have thought that ‘How could I be so stupid?’”

But he noted that all the victims in his cases have retired from highly respectable jobs. Petty and other investigators who’ve probed gold bar and similar scams said they’ve seen intelligent people from all manner of professions hooked by the scammers.

The swindlers prefer their targets buy gold bars because it’s apt to attract less attention than bank withdrawals.

“The scammers are asking for gold because it is a transaction that looks somewhat more normal than an elderly victim walking to a bank and attempting to withdraw \$50,000 in cash,” FBI Supervisory Special Agent Keith Custer said Monday. “When looked at from the outside, the purchase of gold bullion is a nor-

mal investment activity. Lots of people want to invest in gold. So if a senior wires \$50,000 to an online vendor, it looks like a normal transaction.”

The gold bars have arrived to Montgomery County residents via parcel delivery, according to court records. The scammers convince them to turn them over for safekeeping but to do so discreetly so not to attract the attention of purported criminals closing in on them. The gold bar hand off is sometimes accompanied by a code word like “watermelon.”

Montgomery State’s Attorney John McCarthy, the county’s top prosecutor, said the spate of Montgomery cases is probably due, in part, to active fraud investigators at the Montgomery police department. But he also said demographics could be at play, noting that about 230,000 people over

the age of 60 live in the county.

“Many have retired from great jobs, and they’ve made a lot of money in their lifetime. There’s money to be had here,” McCarthy said.

The fraudsters often enlist a pre-scam to their scam — fishing for targets by telling them there is something wrong with their computer. This can come in the form of a pop-up on their monitor. The person is then directed to download software, giving the fraudsters access to their bank numbers.

From there, the scammers get a view into their targets finances and can convince them they’ve been hacked and are vulnerable. Then the targets are put in contact with purported law enforcement agents, who convince the mark not only to move their money to gold but that doing so will aid in

their investigation of criminal rings.

“They shuffle you around between fake agencies about your bank accounts being compromised. The scammers are very convincing,” said Bill DelBagno, the FBI special agent in charge of the bureau’s Baltimore Field Office.

Over the last 15 months, he said the FBI’s Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) has received more than 250 complaints related to gold bar scams, totaling about \$84 million.

“And that just reflects those victims who came forth and provided that information to IC3,” DelBagno said.

“People are losing their life savings, their homes, their trust, their security,” he added. “Unfortunately, it’s happening across the United States.”

MARYLAND

Antisemitic graffiti is found Sunday at a school in Bethesda, police say

BY NICOLE ASBURY AND MARTIN WEIL

Montgomery County police are investigating antisemitic graffiti found at Bethesda Elementary School early Sunday as families visited a popular farmers market there.

The school’s marquee sign was defaced with a statement that read, “Israel rapes men, women

and children,” in red spray paint. A nearby crosswalk and sidewalk were also vandalized with similar statements and “Free Gaza.”

Graffiti also was spray-painted on a nearby building in the 4900 block of Del Ray Avenue, according to Montgomery County police.

Police said authorities were investigating the incident as a bias-related crime. There was no description of anyone who painted

them.

Several families with young children saw the graffiti while going to the market, said Guila Franklin Siegel, associate director of the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington. Siegel said the farmers market is owned by a Jewish person and located in a neighborhood with several synagogues nearby.

“I was thinking to myself,

‘These parents have to have a discussion with their children about what rape means, and why Israel — a country that they are connected to, love — is being accused of that crime,’” Franklin Siegel said. “I think those parents should not have to have those conversations with their children and that is not how those families should have to be spending their Sunday morning during the summer.”

Some families with young children, and the Bethesda Urban Partnership helped to clean up the vandalism.

Thomas Taylor, superintendent of Montgomery County Public Schools, called the incident horrifying. He said he was grateful for the volunteers who “showed up in the moment” to clean up the vandalism.

He added that the school dis-

trict is partnering with organizations to train staff on how to address hate and bias in the classroom, which he said “will ultimately have a ripple effect in the community and spread to our community.”

“What we’re hoping to do,” Taylor said in an interview, “is transform our community, to be a place of love and support and not one of hate.”

VIRGINIA

County sheriff investigating burglary at Trump’s Ashburn campaign office

BY SALVADOR RIZZO

Authorities are investigating a burglary at former president Donald Trump’s campaign office in Ashburn, Va., after reviewing surveillance footage showing a man inside with a backpack strapped to his chest on Sunday.

The Loudoun County Sheriff’s Office said it responded to the burglary report about 9 p.m. Sunday and that a video showed a man inside wearing a dark baseball cap with insignia and a dark hoodie. The man’s backpack appears to be partially full in the still images from the surveillance video released by the sheriff’s office.

“It is rare to have the office of any political campaign or party broken into,” Sheriff Mike Chapman said in a statement. “We are determined to identify the suspect, investigate why it happened, and determine what may have been taken as well as what may have been left behind.”

Ashburn is a Northern Virginia suburb about 30 miles from downtown Washington. The sheriff’s office said the Trump for President campaign is leasing the office.

A spokesman for the sheriff said Monday that the Trump campaign office, which also serves as the headquarters of the Virginia 10th District Republican Committee, had been cleared

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LOUDOUN COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE

Loudoun County authorities are looking for a burglary suspect.

out while law enforcement agencies from Loudoun County and other jurisdictions canvassed the location. They asked for the public’s help identifying the suspect.

“It’s an office park area, kind of a remote office park area, so there would not have been an awful lot of people” on Sunday night, spokesman Thomas Julia said. “Once we know who this person is and the motivation, we’ll have a second statement.”

Republican Party of Virginia

Chairman Rich Anderson said he knows “very little” about the incident.

“I got a phone call from my people this morning telling me that an intruder had somehow made his way in,” Anderson said. “They’ve handed it off to the Loudoun County Sheriff’s Office. It’s really in their hands, so we’re just in a wait-and-see mode.”

Anderson said he had not been briefed yet on whether anything was missing from the office.

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OBITUARIES

PAUL BUCHA, 80

Medal of Honor recipient saved unit under siege during the Vietnam War

BY BRIAN MURPHY

Pinned down in a jungle clearing in March 1968, the commander of Delta Company knew their best hope was for battlefield deception. The U.S. unit was outgunned by a much-larger force of North Vietnamese soldiers and allied guerrillas.

The Americans could not afford to reveal their disadvantage. "If they knew how small we were, we'd be finished," recalled Paul Bucha, then an Army captain who led the nearly 90-man company that came upon a North Vietnamese battalion during patrols in a region north of Saigon, now Ho Chi Minh City.

As darkness fell, Capt. Bucha had his soldiers hurl grenades and open bursts of gunfire from points stretched across their line. The U.S. attacks went on until dawn, seeking to give the impression of greater numbers and firepower.

Meanwhile, Capt. Bucha — who was earlier wounded by shrapnel — used smoke grenades and small lights to help target strikes from helicopter gunships and guide other choppers to carry away wounded soldiers.

"We were beyond artillery so I couldn't bring in any supporting fires," recounted Capt. Bucha, who died at a hospital in West Haven, Conn., on July 31, one day before his 81st birthday. After daybreak, Capt. Bucha led the remaining soldiers in the company to evacuation helicopters.

The dead from the all-night clash included more than 150 North Vietnamese troops and 10 soldiers in Delta Company, the U.S. military reported. In 1970, President Richard M. Nixon presented Capt. Bucha with the Medal of Honor, the military's highest award for valor.

He had arrived in South Vietnam in 1967 as an officer with a master's degree in business from Stanford University and a commission as a graduate of the U.S.

Military Academy. He was soon placed in charge of a newly formed Company D, or Delta Company, in an infantry battalion.

He said Delta became a spot for the soldiers unwanted by other companies, including those coming from military desk jobs or the stockade as rule breakers. Capt. Bucha jokingly called the group "clerks and jerks," but took pride in leading them.

"I said, 'Look, if you had your choice of company commanders, you wouldn't pick me, but if I had my choice of soldiers, I'd pick you,'" he said in a 2012 video oral history.

On March 16, 1968, Delta Company was taken by helicopters to an area near the village of Phuoc Vinh. In late January, North Vietnamese forces and guerrillas known as Viet Cong had launched a wave of surprise attacks with the Tet offensive, which brought heavy U.S. casualties and punched a hole in Pentagon claims that the war was under control. Delta Company's mission was to seek out possible Viet Cong positions.

Late in the afternoon on March 18, the company found an open spot in the jungle canopy. Helicopters brought in fresh supplies and ferried out some soldiers suffering heat exhaustion, according to U.S. military accounts.

With the sun setting, a Delta patrol moved about a quarter mile into the jungle. They saw some people carrying water and asked Capt. Bucha if they could "recon by fire" to see if there was any enemy response.

"And the whole mountain opened up," Capt. Bucha recalled.

Delta Company suddenly came under heavy fire from machine guns and rocket-propelled grenades. Delta had found what appeared to be a full North Vietnamese army battalion — hundreds of soldiers — along with Viet Cong fighters, military reports later said.

Some Delta soldiers were trapped by heavy machine-gun fire from a concealed bunker and a sniper in a tree. Capt. Bucha crawled under the incoming gunfire and began throwing grenades, according to military reports. "I looked around and stood up," he recalled. "No one was firing at me. I figure that's it." He had taken out the North Vietnamese bunker and the sharpshooter.

During the night, the battle never let up. Gunships strafed North Vietnamese positions. Capt. Bucha moved among the soldiers, distributing their dwindling supply of ammunition and trying to keep up the ploy of gunfire and grenades from scattered points to make their numbers seem bigger.

"I remember leaning down next to this rock and thinking, 'We're all going to die,'" Capt. Bucha recalled. "My mom is going to be asked, 'Where did your son die?'" He said he didn't know the name of the area at the time, only the map coordinates.

Soon after sunrise, Delta Company was able to pull back and board helicopters waiting to take them back to base.

World travels

Paul William Bucha was born on Aug. 1, 1943, in Washington. His father was an Army colonel, and his mother tended to the home. The family spent time in various posting across the United States as well as West Germany and Japan.

He graduated in 1965 from the U.S. Military Academy, where he was a two-time all-American swimmer and captain of the Army swim team. He received a master's in business administration degree from Stanford in 1967 and then attended Army Airborne and Ranger schools before deploying to Vietnam.

After he left the military in 1972, he worked in Tehran as chief of operations for Electronic Data



TIM ROSKE/ASSOCIATED PRESS

ABOVE: Paul Bucha, right, shakes hands with retired Marine Col. Richard Fredey as then-New York governor George E. Pataki watches in 1995. RIGHT: Bucha wipes his face the morning after his heroic actions in combat.



U.S. ARMY/CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR SOCIETY

Systems, or EDS, an information technology company founded by H. Ross Perot. After the Islamic revolution in 1979, Mr. Bucha relocated to Paris and helped in negotiations to free EDS employees held in Iran by groups that overthrew the Western-backed shah.

He later was chairman of the board of Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel Corp. and president of the Medal of Honor Society.

During Barack Obama's presidential campaign in 2008, Mr. Bucha served as a foreign policy adviser and appeared at rallies with other veterans. In 1994, Mr. Bucha ran unsuccessfully for a U.S. House seat from New York on the Republican ticket.

His marriage to Carolyn Maynard ended in divorce. In 1996, he

married the former Cynthia Bell, who confirmed the death and said Mr. Bucha died of complications from Alzheimer's disease. The couple lived in Ridgefield, Conn. Other survivors include four children from his first marriage; three sisters; and nine grandchildren.

There are 60 Medal of Honor recipients alive today.

When then-Capt. Bucha

learned in 1970 that he would be presented the Medal of Honor, he considered asking to be passed over. He said he felt troubled by the loss of Delta Company lives during the battle. A senior officer reminded him "it wasn't yours to turn down."

"This belongs to your men," he said he was told. "You wear it for them."

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20TH ANNIVERSARY

DC JAZZ FEST

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AUGUST 28–SEPTEMBER 1, 2024

JACOB COLLIER • SAMARA JOY • D-NICE • STANLEY CLARKE N 4EVER • RON CARTER TRIO • KENNY BARRON TRIO • DIANNE REEVES • GALACTIC BOBBY SANABRIA MULTIVERSE BIG BAND • TERRI LYNE CARRINGTON • CIMAFUNK • CARMEN LUNDY • BILL FRISELL • DAVID MURRAY QUARTET LAKECIA BENJAMIN • JAMES MORRISON • EMMET COHEN TRIO FT. HOUSTON PERSON • NICHOLAS PAYTON • CHUCK BROWN BAND • GENERATIONS OF THE DRUM: TRIBUTE TO BILLY HART • CORCORAN HOLT QUINTET • PAOLO FRESU • BRANDEE YOUNGER • KRIS DAVIS' DIATOM RIBBONS JAZZDC ALL-STARS • ANTONIO HART • NEW JAZZ UNDERGROUND • SHARÓN CLARK • NASAR ABADY AND SUPERNOVA • AND MORE

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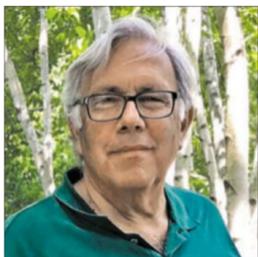
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DEATH NOTICE

DORFMAN



JONATHAN NEAL DORFMAN
January 20, 1954 – August 10, 2024

Rockville, MD—Jonathan Dorfman, beloved father, husband, brother and friend, was born in Philadelphia, PA to Lillian and William Dorfman. As a student of urban planning, he was proud that his parents were original "Levittowners" in Pennsylvania. From there, he spent his pre-school years in California where his father taught at Sacramento State College. His formal school years were in Bethesda, MD where he graduated from Walter Johnson High School in 1972. He earned his B.A. in political science from the University of Wisconsin—Madison in 1976.

His career began at the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) and then at the Office of Management at the newly formed U. S. Department of Education, where he worked on quality assurance and budget. In 1988, he went to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to work in budget and as a Project Manager for building and modernizing Terminal Radar Approach Control

DEATH NOTICE

ASEN

HENRIETTA ASEN "Hank" (Age 96)
Hank passed on August 11, 2024, peacefully, at her home in Friendship Heights. Hank was born in DC, graduated from Roosevelt High School, and attended George Washington University, before leaving her studies to marry Sheldon Abrams. While still a young mother, her husband was diagnosed with MS, so Hank went back to college and finished her degree (with high honors) in education. For 20 years she supported their family as an elementary school teacher in the Montgomery County school system. Later she worked as an executive assistant to Mark Talisman, at the Council of Jewish Federations. The projects she worked on included The Precious Legacy, and the establishment of the National Holocaust Museum. Hank was also a generous supporter of Congregation Beth El, Na'amat, and The Washington Opera. She was predeceased by her parents Hyman and Helen Cohen, her three husbands: Sheldon Abrams, Carl Berger, and Samuel Asen, her beloved twin sister Ruth Jacobs, and Ruth's husband Jerome Jacobs. Left to mourn her are her sons: Alan Abrams (Janet Kinzer), and Arthur Abrams; her granddaughter Amy Abrams (Herschel Gelman), and a host of nieces and nephews.

There will be a graveside service at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, August 14 at Elesavetgrad Cemetery, 1496 Congress St. SE, Washington, DC 20020. A Memorial Service will be held at a later date.

The family is grateful to Dr. Valerie Lee and the teams at Sibley, Suburban, and Johns Hopkins Hospitals for their expert care and kindness, and to the many incredible friends who provided support during his illness. Since he was an enthusiastic reader and lover of history, in lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his memory to the Newberry Library, 60 West Walton Street, Chicago, IL, 60610 or www.newberry.org.

Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m., on Thursday, August 15, at Congregation Beth El, Bethesda, MD with burial following at King David Cemetery, Falls Church, VA. Shiva will be observed at the family home in Rockville MD at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, August 15, and Sunday, August 18.

DEATH NOTICE

DEATH NOTICE

BUGG



MARY LINDA VALERIE ADAMS BUGG

Mary Linda Valerie Adams Bugg, affectionately known as Linda, was born in Washington, DC on June 19, 1940, to Josias and Mary Adams. She peacefully departed this earthly life on Saturday, August 3, 2024, surrounded by the love of her family. Linda received her high school education at Frederick Douglass High School and furthered her studies at Bowie State University and American University. Her dedication and hard work led to a remarkable 47-year career with the federal government. She retired as an esteemed Administrative Officer at the U.S. Department of Education. Linda was the beloved wife of the late John Thomas Bugg, the cherished mother of their son, David Bugg (Ana Negoescu) and loving grandmother of Silvio and Teodor. She is also survived by two sisters: Carole Thompson (Hosea Thompson) and Ann Windsor (Herman Windsor) and many special nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. She now joins her brothers Chester, Bernard, Lawrence and her sister Jane in eternal rest. Linda's legacy is one of devotion to family and community, an exemplary work ethic, and a life well lived, enriched by education and service. She will be dearly missed by all those who had the privilege to know her. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to a charity of your choice in Linda's memory. A memorial service will be held at St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church, 14908 Main Street, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772 on Friday, August 16, 2024. Visitation will be from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and memorial service will be from 12 to 1 p.m. Burial will be private.

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DEATH NOTICE

DEATH NOTICE

HANLON



BRIAN CHRISTOPHER HANLON

On Thursday, August 8, 2024, the world lost a truly unique, creative, kind, and accomplished soul - Dr. Brian Christopher Hanlon. Brian passed away suddenly at home in Clarksburg, MD. He was 48. For more than a decade, he was the cherished husband of Lisa Hanlon (nee Anderson) and the adored father of Grace Hanlon. In addition to his wife and daughter, Brian leaves behind a large and loving family, including mother Eileen Hanlon; brother Patrick Hanlon (Laura); sister Bridget Plitt (Steve), and brother Sean Hanlon (Cindy). Dr. Hanlon is also survived by nieces Chloe Hanlon, Claire Hanlon, Kath-

arine Hanlon, Jessica Hanlon, Blair Dailey, Kylie Whitaker, Reese Whitaker, Alyssa Garagiola, and Erica Garagiola, by nephews Joey Hanlon (Mary), Colin Dailey, Shawn Whitaker, and Jonathan Garagiola, by great nephews Brantley and Tucker Hanlon, and by great niece Charlie Dias. Brian was preceded in death by his beloved father, Eugene Hanlon. Born in Silver Spring, MD, Brian grew up in Clarksburg, MD, then completed a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree at the University of Maryland, College Park. Brian spent the early part of his career working for a variety of organizations, including Glaxo-Tropics, Marriott International, and the United Parcel Service. After a serious work accident though, Brian experienced the healing power of acupuncture when all other treatments failed. This experience inspired him to pursue both a Masters and a Doctorate in Chinese Medicine. In practice, Dr. Hanlon became an extraordinary acupuncturist and a highly valued healer. Brian will be remembered for his love of martial arts, his great ability to see beauty and elegance in everyday life, his distinctive artwork, love of comics and graphic novels, and his devotion to his friends and family. Visitation will be held at Hilton Funeral Home, 22111 Beallsville Road, Barnesville, MD on Thursday, August 15, 2024 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. A funeral mass will be held at St. Mary's Catholic Church and Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima, 18230 Barnesville Rd., Barnesville, MD on Friday, August 16, 2024 at 11 a.m. A Christian burial and luncheon will follow the mass.

DEATH NOTICE

DEATH NOTICE

LEVIN



SHULA LEVIN

Shula "Dusty" Levin (nee Ziff), of Pikesville, MD, passed away on Saturday, August 10, 2024, at the age of 91. She is survived

by her husband of 72 years, Armand Levin; by her son, Dr. Alan Levin (Dr. Bonnie Richter); by her grandchildren, Ariel (Benjamin) Sperl, and Jonathan (Yvonne) Levin, and by her great-granddaughter, Callie Sperl. She was predeceased by her sister, Goldie Nussbaum, and by her parents, Lena and Abraham Zif.

Services were held at Hebrew Young Men's Cemetery, 5950 Windsor Mill Road, Woodlawn, MD, 21207 Road, on Monday, August 12, 2024, at 1 p.m. Please omit flowers. Contributions in her memory may be sent to the Alzheimer's Association of Maryland, 502 Washington Avenue Suite 300, Towson, MD 21204 or to the charity of your choice. www.sollevinson.com



DEATH NOTICE

DEATH NOTICE

THOMPSON



JILL KING THOMPSON (Age 76)

On August 7, 2024, Jill Elizabeth Thompson, passed away at her home with her family after suffering a cancerous brain tumor. Jill was born on September 12, 1947, on the King Family Farm in Meade County Kentucky, to Howard Patrick King, Sr., and Elizabeth Ann Stith King. She graduated from Meade County High School and attended the University of Kentucky. She worked in the Fort Knox Comptroller's Office where she met her future husband. They were married after then Capt. James Howard Thompson, Jr. returned from Vietnam in October 1970. Over the course of their US Army career, they travelled to assignments in Europe and the U.S. Jill was an active volunteer, serving as a debt counselor to Army families and providing other community services. She also worked as the editor of a local newspaper, and as a real estate agent. She was a business and project manager for an electrical engineering and testing firm serving the aviation industry before transitioning to the information Technology (IT) industry. In

January 2011 she retired as Executive Vice President of QinetiQ North America where she was proud to lead a team of over 2,000 IT professionals providing services to the U.S. Customs Service, US Treasury, the US State Department, GSA, and Department of Homeland Security. She was especially proud of her team's work in helping her US government clients re-establish, entrance, and sustain IT services after the 9/11 terrorist's attacks. She made many lifelong friends. In retirement, they were active volunteers at their church and continued to travel around the world, but nothing made them happier than being surrounded by their family. It has been our privilege to love her and be a witness to her love, care, and devotion to her God, family, friends, and country. Jill was the mother of three children, grandmother of 10, eldest sibling of 12, aunt to over 120 and many more family and friends. There will always be a place for her in our hearts, souls, and memories, until we meet her again. Jill is survived by her 97-year-old father, Howard Patrick King, Sr.; her husband, James Howard Thompson, Jr.; and her children: Gregory Howard Thompson (Laura), Kara Elizabeth West (Roger), and Devon Marie Anderson (Jeremy); and her delightful grandkids: Blake, Maxwell, Stella and Alexandra Thompson, Elizabeth, Emma and Charlotte West, and Olivia, Reese, and Robert James Anderson.

Visitation on Thursday, August 15, 2024 at Adams-Green Funeral Home, 721 Elden Street, Herndon, VA from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Mass of Christian burial at Corpus Christi Catholic Church, 41685 Corpus Christi Drive, Aldie, VA on Friday, August 16, 2024 at 10 a.m. Burial at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations are suggested to The American Cancer Society, Alzheimer's Disease Research or St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, in her memory.

POST YOUR CONDOLENCES

Now death notices on washingtonpost.com/obituaries allow you to express your sympathy with greater ease. Visit today.



DEATH NOTICE

COOKSEY



JANIE COOKSEY

Janie Cooksey passed away on August 9, 2024. She was born in Baldwyn, Mississippi on October 26, 1945 to Alice E. Rainey and William Frank Cooksey. Janie grew up in Alexandria, VA, and after graduating from Groveton High School in 1963, she established a distinguished career with the federal government, retiring after 50 years of Congressional Liaison service for the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. She was a beloved, caring sister and aunt who enjoyed music, dancing and sharing fun times with good friends. Janie is predeceased by her sister Marie Williams of Stafford, VA and survived by sisters, Dorothy Baby of Duncanville, TX and Sarah Major of Stafford, VA, as well as many beloved nieces and nephews. A ceremony will be held at Covenant Funeral Service, 1310 Courthouse Rd., Stafford, VA 22554 on Thursday, August 15, 2024 at 11 a.m. Interment to follow at Mt Comfort Cemetery in Alexandria, VA. A livestream of the service and online guestbook available at www.covenantfuneralservice.com

DEATH NOTICE



BROTHER JAMES C. JONES

The Officers and Members of Martha Chapter No. 11, OES-PhA, are hereby notified of the passing of our beloved brother, Brother James C. Jones. On Wednesday, August 14, 2024, at 10 a.m., service at 11 a.m., at Mt Jezreel Baptist Church, Silver Spring, MD. No OES Service Interment, Cheltenham Veterans Cemetery. **WM Etta Seward-Kemp WP Milton M. Davis, Jr. Secy Norma J. Brooks, PM**



DEATH NOTICE

JONES

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DEATH NOTICE

WALKER



MARSHALL LOUIS WALKER (Age 78)

Entered eternal rest on Sunday, August 4, 2024. He was predeceased by his son, Michael and siblings: Shirley, Alvin and Burnis Walker. Mr. Walker is survived by his beloved sons: Duion and Jamal Walker and Jared Wingate; former wife: Carol Walker; eight adored grandchildren; eight loving great-grandchildren; cherished siblings: Virginia (Phillip) Hagson, Clifford Reid, Helen and Ricky Walker and host of other relatives and friends.

Mr. Walker will lie in state at Mount Ennon Baptist Church, 9832 Piscataway Road, Clinton, MD 20735, on Friday, August 16, 2024, from 10 a.m. to Celebration of life service at 11 a.m. On Monday, August 19, at 11 a.m., Final resting place at Saint Peter's Catholic Church Cemetery, Waldorf, MD. Services entrusted to Stewart Funeral Home. www.stewartfuneralhome.com

When the need arises, let families find you in the Funeral Services Directory.

To be seen in the Funeral Services Directory, please call paid Death Notices at 202-334-4122.

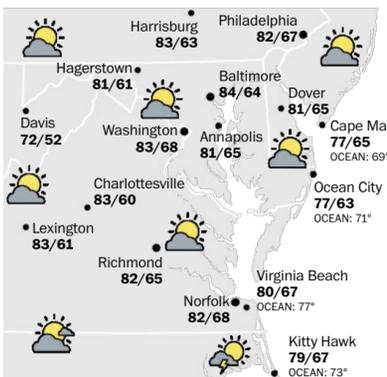
THE WEATHER

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Trending in the right direction

Today should be another winner, with low humidity, tons of sun and temperatures mainly in the low and mid-80s for highs. Lows should be in the 60s. Looking ahead, temperature averages continue to dip off their July highs. The normal high fell to 88 degrees in the city Monday, and it heads down two more degrees by the end of the month. Lows that now average 72 degrees will drop into the upper 60s by month's end. While there will be more hot days before fall arrives, the trend toward comfort is our friend.

REGION



Pollen: High
Grass Low
Trees Moderate
Weeds High
Mold High

Air Quality: Good
Dominant cause: Nitrogen oxide

UV: Very High
8 out of 11+

Blue Ridge: Today, partly sunny. High 65 to 72. Winds northwest 4-8 mph. Tonight, mostly cloudy. Low 55 to 59. Winds north 4-8 mph. Wednesday, mostly sunny. High 67 to 74. Winds north-northeast 4-8 mph. Thursday, a passing shower in central parts.

Atlantic beaches: Today, partly sunny; a stray afternoon thunderstorm in the south. High 77 to 82. Winds east-northeast 6-12 mph. Tonight, a thunderstorm in spots in the south; mostly cloudy in central parts. Partly cloudy in the north. Low 63 to 68.

Waterways: *Upper Potomac River:* Today, partly sunny. Wind northwest 4-8 knots. Waves less than a foot. Visibility unrestricted. *Lower Potomac and Chesapeake Bay:* Today, partly sunny. Wind northwest 6-12 knots. Waves 0-1 foot on the Lower Potomac; 1-2 feet on the Chesapeake Bay. *River Stages:* The stage at Little Falls will be around 5.20 feet today, rising to 5.90 Wednesday. Flood stage at Little Falls is 10 feet.

Today's tides (High tides in bold)

| | | | | |
|---------------|------------|-----------|------------|------------|
| Washington | 2:28 a.m. | 9:50 a.m. | 3:05 p.m. | 9:21 p.m. |
| Annapolis | 12:32 a.m. | 6:53 a.m. | 11:00 a.m. | 6:08 p.m. |
| Ocean City | 2:02 a.m. | 8:09 a.m. | 2:45 p.m. | 9:13 p.m. |
| Norfolk | 3:52 a.m. | 9:52 a.m. | 4:28 p.m. | 11:16 p.m. |
| Point Lookout | 3:25 a.m. | 7:37 a.m. | 1:19 p.m. | 8:59 p.m. |

Today
Partly sunny



Wednesday
Mostly sunny



Thursday
Mostly sunny



Friday
Partly sunny



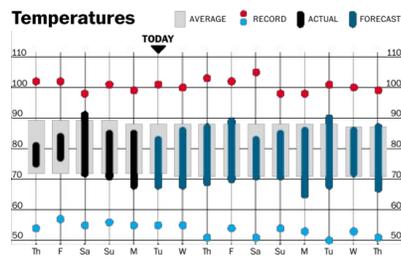
Saturday
T-storm, humid



Sunday
T-storm



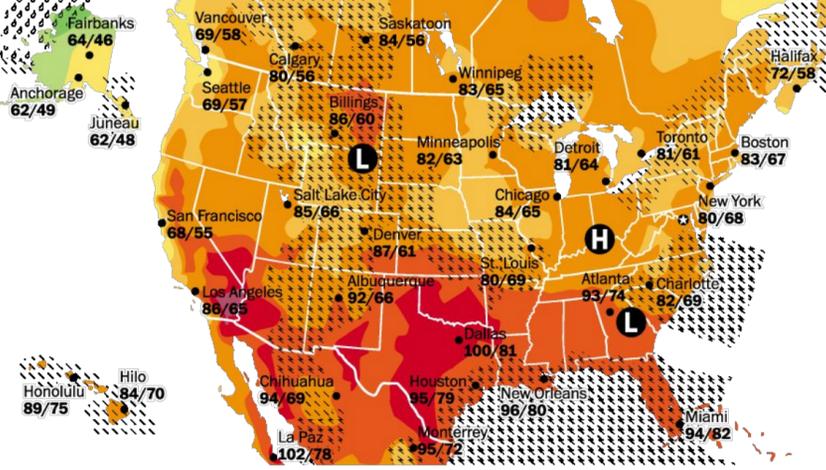
OFFICIAL RECORD



Precipitation

| | | | |
|------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| Past 24 hours | 0.00" | 0.00" | 0.00" |
| Total this month | 3.45" | 1.97" | 5.16" |
| Normal | 1.29" | 1.41" | 1.66" |
| Total this year | 27.96" | 22.62" | 28.26" |
| Normal | 26.05" | 27.20" | 27.46" |

NATION



Yesterday's National High: China Lake, CA 107° Low: Boca Reservoir, CA 36°
World High: Basrah, Iraq 120° Low: Bird Island, S. Sandwich Island 13°

| NATIONAL | | Today | Tomorrow |
|------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Albany, NY | 80/59/pc | 84/60/sh | 82/63/s |
| Albuquerque | 92/66/t | 92/68/pc | 82/63/s |
| Anchorage | 62/49/s | 63/50/s | 62/49/s |
| Atlanta | 93/74/s | 89/73/pc | 82/60/pc |
| Austin | 99/76/s | 99/76/pc | 88/75/pc |
| Baltimore | 84/64/pc | 87/65/s | 84/65/pc |
| Billings, MT | 86/60/pc | 84/60/pc | 84/65/pc |
| Birmingham | 92/71/s | 92/74/t | 90/74/pc |
| Bismarck, ND | 83/67/pc | 80/67/pc | 80/67/pc |
| Boise | 88/62/pc | 89/64/s | 81/62/s |
| Boston | 83/67/pc | 80/67/pc | 81/62/s |
| Buffalo | 79/62/pc | 81/62/s | 83/62/pc |
| Burlington, VT | 81/61/pc | 83/62/pc | 81/61/pc |
| Charleston, SC | 91/74/t | 87/71/t | 86/66/s |
| Charleston, WV | 86/57/pc | 89/58/pc | 86/66/s |
| Charlotte | 82/69/t | 85/67/s | 88/69/pc |
| Cheyenne, WY | 80/59/t | 80/56/pc | 81/62/s |
| Chicago | 84/65/pc | 84/70/pc | 86/66/s |
| Cincinnati | 83/64/pc | 86/63/pc | 89/66/t |
| Cleveland | 81/59/pc | 82/61/s | 86/66/s |
| Dallas | 100/81/s | 101/83/s | 80/68/pc |
| Denver | 87/61/t | 83/59/pc | 81/65/pc |
| Des Moines | 77/66/c | 79/71/t | 82/63/s |
| Detroit | 81/64/pc | 82/63/s | 101/77/s |
| El Paso | 101/77/s | 98/77/c | 84/46/pc |
| Fairbanks, AK | 64/46/pc | 65/46/c | 82/67/pc |
| Fargo, ND | 82/67/pc | 79/68/t | 82/60/pc |
| Hartford, CT | 82/60/pc | 84/62/pc | 89/75/t |
| Honolulu | 89/75/t | 88/75/pc | 95/79/pc |
| Houston | 95/79/pc | 95/78/pc | 82/64/c |
| Indianapolis | 82/64/c | 84/65/pc | 99/75/s |
| Jackson, MS | 99/75/s | 100/74/pc | 105/82/s |
| Jacksonville, FL | 96/76/t | 93/76/t | 97/76/t |
| Las Vegas | 105/82/s | 105/79/s | 97/76/t |
| Las Vegas | 105/82/s | 105/79/s | 97/76/t |
| Little Rock | 97/76/pc | 97/78/t | 86/66/s |
| Los Angeles | 86/65/s | 87/63/s | 86/66/s |
| Los Angeles | 86/65/s | 87/63/s | 93/76/t |
| Louisville | 86/66/s | 88/69/pc | 94/82/t |
| Memphis | 93/76/pc | 87/75/t | 81/66/s |
| Miami | 94/82/t | 94/81/t | 82/63/s |
| Milwaukee | 81/66/s | 81/70/pc | 82/63/s |
| Minneapolis | 82/63/s | 81/65/t | 89/69/s |
| Nashville | 89/69/s | 90/66/t | 96/80/t |
| New Orleans | 96/80/t | 97/81/s | 80/68/pc |
| New York City | 80/68/pc | 85/69/s | 82/68/t |
| Norfolk | 82/68/t | 81/65/pc | 98/76/s |
| Oklahoma City | 98/76/s | 99/77/s | 78/67/c |
| Omaha | 78/67/c | 85/70/t | 94/78/t |
| Orlando | 94/78/t | 94/77/t | 82/67/pc |
| Philadelphia | 82/67/pc | 85/67/t | 107/89/pc |
| Phoenix | 107/89/pc | 109/88/s | 79/56/pc |
| Pittsburgh | 79/56/pc | 82/58/s | 82/59/s |
| Portland, ME | 82/59/s | 81/60/pc | 73/59/c |
| Portland, OR | 80/59/pc | 80/59/pc | 81/63/pc |
| Providence, RI | 81/63/pc | 83/62/s | 84/67/t |
| Raleigh, NC | 84/67/t | 86/65/s | 88/56/s |
| Reno, NV | 88/56/s | 91/56/s | 82/65/c |
| Richmond | 82/65/c | 86/64/s | 90/59/s |
| Sacramento | 90/59/s | 93/58/s | 80/69/t |
| St. Louis | 80/69/t | 82/74/t | 89/80/r |
| St. Thomas, VI | 89/80/r | 86/82/r | 85/66/t |
| Salt Lake City | 85/66/t | 88/65/t | 68/55/pc |
| San Diego | 79/68/pc | 78/65/pc | 68/55/pc |
| San Francisco | 68/55/pc | 69/58/pc | 88/79/r |
| San Juan, PR | 88/79/r | 90/81/r | 69/57/c |
| Seattle | 69/57/c | 75/57/c | 80/54/s |
| Spokane, WA | 80/54/s | 81/55/s | 80/61/pc |
| Syracuse | 80/61/pc | 83/62/pc | 93/80/t |
| Tampa | 93/80/t | 93/80/t | 92/74/t |
| Wichita | 92/74/t | 99/74/s | 70/55/sh |
| Addis Ababa | 70/55/sh | 70/55/sh | 81/63/t |
| Amsterdam | 81/63/t | 74/62/t | 99/77/s |
| Athens | 99/77/s | 98/79/s | 57/42/s |
| Auckland | 57/42/s | 59/46/c | 113/87/pc |
| Baghdad | 113/87/pc | 114/84/pc | 96/81/t |
| Bangkok | 96/81/t | 96/82/t | 82/71/pc |
| Beijing | 82/71/pc | 88/73/t | 67/47/pc |
| Berlin | 67/47/pc | 91/68/s | 84/64/t |
| Bogota | 84/64/t | 69/48/pc | 63/48/s |
| Brussels | 84/64/t | 74/60/pc | 97/79/s |
| Buenos Aires | 63/48/s | 62/50/pc | 77/68/sh |
| Cairo | 97/79/s | 96/78/s | 74/64/pc |
| Caracas | 77/68/sh | 78/67/t | 87/59/sh |
| Copenhagen | 74/64/pc | 78/65/pc | 88/81/sh |
| Dakar | 88/81/sh | 87/81/sh | 70/48/sh |
| Dublin | 70/48/sh | 69/61/pc | 68/50/sh |
| Edinburgh | 68/50/sh | 69/57/pc | 93/69/t |
| Frankfurt | 93/69/t | 87/66/t | 92/65/t |
| Geneva | 92/65/t | 85/62/r | 86/79/t |
| Ham., Bermuda | 86/79/t | 84/78/r | 74/54/s |
| Helsinki | 74/54/s | 75/54/s | 95/78/t |
| Ho Chi Minh City | 95/78/t | 94/78/t | 87/81/t |
| Hong Kong | 87/81/t | 88/81/t | 94/77/t |
| Islamabad | 95/79/s | 94/77/t | 89/71/s |
| Istanbul | 94/77/s | 94/76/s | 89/71/s |
| Jerusalem | 89/71/s | 91/71/s | 68/38/s |
| Johannesburg | 73/50/pc | 68/38/s | 93/67/s |
| Kabul | 93/67/s | 94/68/s | 93/80/pc |
| Kingston, Jam. | 93/80/pc | 95/81/pc | 91/81/t |
| Kolkata | 91/81/t | 91/81/t | 74/56/pc |
| Kyiv | 74/56/pc | 77/60/s | 83/76/sh |
| Lagos | 83/76/sh | 83/75/sh | 66/58/pc |
| Lima | 66/58/pc | 66/58/pc | 80/65/s |
| Lisbon | 80/65/s | 74/60/pc | 78/62/c |
| London | 78/62/c | 73/56/pc | 89/60/s |
| Madrid | 89/60/s | 89/60/s | 91/80/t |
| Manila | 91/80/t | 91/80/t | 77/59/sh |
| Mexico City | 77/59/sh | 76/57/pc | 82/62/pc |
| Montreal | 82/62/pc | 82/63/pc | 67/53/sh |
| Moscow | 67/53/sh | 70/49/pc | 90/81/r |
| Mumbai | 90/81/r | 89/80/r | 70/51/t |
| Nairobi | 77/56/pc | 78/58/pc | 89/81/t |
| New Delhi | 89/81/t | 91/81/t | 70/51/t |
| Oslo | 70/51/t | 68/62/r | 81/59/pc |
| Ottawa | 81/59/pc | 83/62/pc | 86/64/t |
| Paris | 86/64/t | 80/62/c | 89/64/s |
| Prague | 89/64/s | 86/67/t | 68/57/c |
| Rio de Janeiro | 68/57/c | 74/63/s | 113/86/pc |
| Riyadh | 113/86/pc | 113/86/pc | 92/72/s |
| Rome | 92/72/s | 92/70/s | 85/70/t |
| San Salvador | 85/70/t | 84/70/t | 72/48/pc |
| Santiago | 72/48/pc | 67/45/c | 100/59/pc |
| Sanjiaevu | 100/59/pc | 103/59/s | 96/80/pc |
| Seoul | 96/80/pc | 96/79/t | 97/83/pc |
| Shanghai | 97/83/pc | 95/80/r | 90/80/t |
| Singapore | 90/80/t | 88/79/sh | 74/56/pc |
| Stockholm | 74/56/pc | 74/57/pc | 67/58/r |
| Sydney | 67/58/r | 63/56/r | 96/81/t |
| Taipei City | 96/81/t | 94/79/t | 103/81/s |
| Tehran | 103/81/s | 101/81/s | 95/82/t |
| Tokyo | 95/82/t | 92/81/r | 81/61/pc |
| Toronto | 81/61/pc | 83/61/s | 92/67/c |
| Vienna | 92/67/c | 95/72/pc | 77/55/s |
| Warsaw | 77/55/s | 82/59/s | 82/63/pc |

Moon Phases

| | |
|--------|---------------|
| Aug 19 | Full |
| Aug 26 | Last Quarter |
| Sep 2 | New |
| Sep 11 | First Quarter |

Solar system

| Planet | Rise | Set |
|---------|-----------|-----------|
| Sun | 6:20 a.m. | 8:05 p.m. |
| Moon | 3:15 p.m. | none |
| Venus | 7:56 a.m. | 9:00 p.m. |
| Mars | 1:17 a.m. | 3:58 p.m. |
| Jupiter | 1:20 a.m. | 4:00 p.m. |
| Saturn | 9:17 p.m. | 8:39 a.m. |

CAPITAL WEATHER GANG

Glowing red 'sprites' provide lights and a lot of action for some cameras

BY KASHA PATEL

They're not fairies, but their red sparks look magical. They don't last long, but they can be as large as a town. They're not difficult to capture on camera, but they're still one of the more mysterious weather phenomena on Earth. Meet the sprites.

Sprites, named after the elusive fairylike creatures, are predominantly red flashes that occur above thunderstorm clouds. They can briefly change the electrically charged layers of our upper atmosphere, potentially affecting radio signals. Mostly, though, they're beautiful — taking the shapes of jellyfish, carrots or trees — and sometimes dance in the sky.

Sprites have probably been around as long as lightning itself, but scientists have focused attention on them only in the past few decades. The exact mechanisms of how and when they form are a hot topic for research. Now enthusiastic night owls known as sprite chasers are also tracking and photographing the fleeting phenomena and adding to our understanding of these enigmatic spectacles.

Sprite chaser Paul Smith has captured the flashes for about seven years and collected over 100 terabytes of files on 20 external hard drives. A registered nurse by day, he became obsessed with sprites after watching a documentary. He began reading complex scientific studies — “a lot of it obviously went way over my head.” But now he's contributed to published studies by discovering a new feature of sprites in his videos.

The first documented evidence of a sprite was serendipitous. People have reported strange flashes above thunderstorms for hundreds of years, but they weren't caught on camera and analyzed until 1989. Researchers were testing a lowlight video camera for an upcoming rocket launch when they spotted twin flashes of light above the horizon.

Much like the first documented sprite, Smith's first sighting in 2017 was unplanned. He was visiting California and taking photos of a meteor shower when

he saw storms in the distance. He knew sprites occur only with lightning. More than an hour later, he saw one in the far, far distance.

“It was just the most exciting moment, I think, since I picked up a camera,” said Smith, who previously chased and photographed northern lights and meteor showers. “Finally seeing one was just awe-inspiring. ... I became hooked.”

Smith is a well-known sprite chaser, but he's not the only one. In 2022, a NASA citizen science project called Spritacular (pronounced sprite-tacular) began collecting sprite observations from the public to share with the scientific community for research. In less than two years, hundreds of volunteers from 13 countries have submitted around 200 reports.

While not necessarily trained scientists, many of the participants are far from amateur sprite observers, said NASA scientist Burcu Kosar, who founded Spritacular. Many participants are “extremely good at analyzing their own data and identifying interesting features in their observations.”

Many have seen more sprites than the scientists studying them. Three years ago, Kosar traveled with Smith to capture sprites across Oklahoma. It was her first time chasing a sprite in person in her 15 years of studying them, but it was just another chasing night for Smith.

Based in Edmond, Okla., Smith drives to remote locations hours away when he sees large-scale storm systems approaching. The key, he says, is to stand far enough away from clouds to see above them. Let your eyes adjust to the dark sky until stars appear, increasingly difficult with light pollution. Set up your camera for video and wait.

It's an odd scene to people who aren't storm chasers. More than once, locals have called the police on Smith and reported “a guy with a camera.” If he is lucky and has cell service, he shows the officers his Instagram or Facebook to prove he's a photographer. Sometimes he has had to give an atmospheric physics lesson to the officer: “I'm looking for things shooting out the top of



MARKO KOROSCE/SOLENT NEWS/SHUTTERSTOCK; MARKO KOROSCE/SOLENT NEWS/SHUTTERSTOCK

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THEATER REVIEW

When you fail as a dad so you clone your son and start over

BY TREY GRAHAM

"I could have managed better," the father stammers to his son — and what dad hasn't thought about wanting a do-over with one child-rearing choice or another?

There's such a thing as doing too much, though, and in Caryl Churchill's savagely unsentimental "A Number," the 60-ish widower took that second-chance impulse a sizable step further: Thirty-five years earlier, having failed at fatherhood the first time around, he cloned the kid and started again. Now the "new" adult son, having stumbled over part of his origin story, wants Dad to fill in the blanks.

An interpersonal puzzle play as much as a riff on the ethics and morality of cloning, Churchill's 2002 drama arrived in London just a few years after Dolly the sheep made her debut as history's first cloned mammal, with a little-known Daniel Craig playing the son. The story unfolds haltingly, in fragments, as Salter (D.C.-based veteran David Bryan Jackson) reluctantly coughs up details about what happened and why, under the not terribly focused questioning of his perplexed offspring. In a new staging in Arlington, Va., from Edge of the Universe Theater, the latter is played by Max Jackson — and yes, the two men are real-life father and son.

What would make a parent do such a thing? How badly would he have had to mess things up? (Cue references to alcohol and maybe drugs, among darker hints of abuse and neglect.) What befell the original Bernard? (The answer will prove more shocking than most will expect.) Where was Mom in all this?

Oh, and what to do about the 19 *extra* clones the doctors turn out to have created — without Salter's knowledge or permission, it seems — to study in the name of science? To whom do they "belong," and isn't there anyone to sue?

All this, remarkably, is packed into a brisk hour of dialogue as broken and sharp-edged as shattered glass, its stutters and stops and overlaps navigated crisply by the Jacksons under the coaching of director Stephen Jarrett; their circlings and collisions play out on a simple kitchen-table set (courtesy Simone Schneeberg) sur-
SEE THEATER REVIEW ON C4



DJ COREY

Max Jackson and David Bryan Jackson in Edge of the Universe Theater's "A Number."

THEY BUILT A PLACE TO SKATE.



ILLUSTRATION BY ELENA LACEY/THE WASHINGTON POST; GETTY IMAGES; ISTOCK

A PRO-TRUMP YOUTUBER BOUGHT IT.

BY WILL SOMMER
IN MARTINSBURG, W.VA.

For 10 years, skateboarders in Martinsburg ollied and tre-flipped in peace on an empty concrete slab, hidden behind trees on an embankment near a busy highway. After the closure of a city-run skate park in 2013, the skaters used wood and cinder blocks to build their own ramps and jumps, with permission from the property's owner.

A skateboard nailed to a tree, graffiti of grimacing monsters and numerous empty energy-drink cans point to a place that was wholly the skaters' in spirit — though not legally.

"It takes a lot of work and effort to maintain your own space," said Chace Amos, a skater who frequented the skate park. "There's a camaraderie around it."

Then Tim Pool — a deep-pocketed right-wing video sensation — got in a dispute with the skaters and bought the land the skate park sits on. Skateboarding in Martinsburg has never been the same.

Pool's purchase of the improvised skate park has riled skateboarders in West Virginia's eastern panhandle, where he lives — and sparked a debate about

both how much politics and how much of Pool's money belongs in skateboarding.

Pool downplayed the controversy in an email to The Washington Post.

"The issue seems to be solely with a few people who don't like me personally," Pool wrote, pointing to some repairs he's made to the concrete since the purchase. He claims most of his detractors live outside the town.

For critics of Pool — a former Vice reporter who rose to prominence during the Occupy Wall Street movement — the skate park purchase represents just his latest heel turn.

Pool is now a pro-Trump YouTuber, with a combined 4.4 million subscribers spread across three channels on the site.

He's perhaps best known for his lengthy nightly YouTube show, which features current events discus-
SEE SKATE PARK ON C3

Some skaters didn't want right-wing video sensation Tim Pool's money or presence at their improvised skate park in Martinsburg, W.Va. Now that he owns it, he says he's defending conservative small-town virtues.

OPERA REVIEW

Wolf Trap Opera ends season with salient 'Silent Night' that resonates loudly

BY MICHAEL ANDOR BRODEUR

The first thing you notice about Wolf Trap Opera's new production of "Silent Night" — composer Kevin Puts and librettist Mark Campbell's Pulitzer Prize-winning 2011 opera — is its broken frame.

Directors Tonya and Ryan McKinny have mounted their production at the Barns like a painting, the perimeter of the stage bound by a gilded frame, its bottom edge snapped and in fragments on the floor. Has it been destroyed by war? Looted by thieves? Or does the McKinny's staging suggest a different kind of irreparable damage?

An opera based on Christian Carion's 2005 film "Joyeux Noël," which chronicles the fleeting Christmas truce struck in 1914 between squads of World War I combatants, would seem out of season in mid-August. But a larger global context of ongoing crisis — incursions, invasions, unheeded calls for cease-fire — amplifies both the music and the message of "Silent Night," which hits you like a shell and hangs out for a while between your ears.

This impact is largely thanks to the McKinny treatment, which employs the

frame not just as metaphor but as staging strategy. A retractable translucent screen — employed for video projections designed by Adam Larsen and filmed by Ryan McKinny — hinted at the flat surface of a canvas. When retracted, the lighting design of Colin K. Bills and scenery of Lawrence Moten bestowed the tight real estate of the Barns stage with uncanny depth and dimension.

Thus, transitions between a Berlin opera house and the chaos of no man's land transpire with the ease of a dream that curdles into a nightmare. Projected paintings by Otto Dix, J.B. Morra and Vasily Vereshchagin (a garish mound of skulls) tint the tilted stage like memories softly intruding on each other. Way at the back, behind several layers of artifice, plays the orchestra, caught in silhouette but present and vivid from start to finish.

Puts's score was in the capable hands of conductor Geoffrey McDonald, who smartly steered the orchestra through the composer's elaborate designs — music that revels in cinematic scale and intimate revelation, sepia nostalgia and cruel irony. McDonald kept the fragile fantasy
SEE OPERA REVIEW ON C2



Wm. Clay Thompson performs in Wolf Trap Opera's production of "Silent Night."

SCOTT SUCHMAN

Opera brings the chaos of war to life

OPERA REVIEW FROM C1

of the prologue — an opera disrupted by the outbreak of war — perfectly contrived. He lent extra heat to Puts's terrifying Penderecki-isms on the battlefield, tense and busy with discord: streaking trumpets, razor wire strings, rumbling percussion.

He brought endearing sweetness to the lullaby of the sleeping soldiers and a scene of letters to home — gaining and rising like a swirl of papers in the wind. And he clearly articulated the cross and clash of cultures that animates the score — its ballads and bagpipes, hymns and anthems, romantic feints and parries of dissonance. The playing, from every end of the orchestra, was strong enough to surmount the distance, and restrained enough to maintain some depth of field.

Campbell's polyglot libretto — in English, French and German (plus a little Latin and Italian) — was well-served by a strong cast of Filene Artists. Tenor Ricardo Garcia offered an impassioned performance as Nikolaus Sprink — a German singer turned soldier turned defector — though he relied perhaps too much on breaking to broadcast his grief, when singing would also do the trick.

In a show short on feminine energy, soprano Keely Futterer seized several opportunities to steal the show as opera singer (and #TeamSprink faithful) Anna Sorensen, especially her duets with Nikolaus and an exquisitely expressive “Dona nobis pacem” to close Act I.

Baritone Kyle White and tenor Martin Luther Clark made a solid pair as the brothers Dale, and bass Wm. Clay Thompson made a stur-



PHOTOS BY SCOTT SUCHMAN

ABOVE: Members of the Wolf Trap Opera in “Silent Night.” TOP RIGHT: Soprano Keely Futterer as opera singer Anna Sorensen, and tenor Ricardo Garcia as German singer Nikolaus Sprink.



ite performance came from baritone Charles H. Eaton, whose Ponchel was powerfully sung, endearingly acted and endowed with an easy humanity that his fellow soldiers struggled to muster.

The men were most powerful in ensemble, a dynamic Puts leverages to foreground the chaos of war, the burial of fraternity beneath a crushing din of violence.

Ryan McKinny's own pre-recorded video overlays of individual soldiers were cleverly conceived and deployed — flashbacks of life before war were rendered in lush color, with stark black-and-white reserved to depict the psychological agonies of the battlefield. But in the latter case (as well as onstage) the cast of war-wearied men looked a little too clean and tidy. Absent from the McKinny vision of war is the dirt, the blood and (across the board) the tears.

But what “Silent Night” lacks in surface grit, it makes up for with thoughtful depth — and a dose of brute honesty: The boundary between the horrors of the past and the uncertainties of the present have never felt so fragile. It takes so little for the unimaginable to spill into reality — for the frame to fall to pieces.

Silent Night runs at the Barns at Wolf Trap through Saturday. wolftrap.org.

dy, likable Father Palmer — though the whole Scottish regiment's attempt at brogues too often caught the ear like a hangnail in a mitten.

Baritones Andrew Gilstrap (Horstmayer of the Germans), Ryan Wolfe (Gordon of the Scots) and Jacob Scharfman (Audebert of the French) formed a formidable triumvirate of lieutenants, in especially fine form navigating Campbell's translation scenes. Tenor Demetrious Sampson Jr. was strong (though a little too silly) as the Kronprinz, and the role of the French General seemed tailored to fit bass Le Bu, his regalia barely concealing a paternal softness kept at bay.

But among the men, my favor-

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ILLUSTRATION BY NICK GALIFIANAKIS FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Boyfriend always insists on one-upping any illness



Carolyn Hax

Adapted from an online discussion.

Dear Carolyn: I was telling my family what I thought was a funny story about my boyfriend (he was not there):

Since we've been living together, every time I get sick, he starts complaining about being so much sicker. When I had tonsillitis, he suddenly was so sick, also from tonsillitis. When I had a UTI, he's suddenly bedridden with a UTI. Every single time I get better, he magically gets better, too, even though I was the only one taking the antibiotics, etc. When I had covid, he was SO SICK with the same thing, but even “worse.” I was in bed for six days and he went to work the whole week and out drinking, but when he'd get home, he'd insist he was just as sick as I was.

My parents didn't laugh as I expected. My dad said this means he's willing to lie to me to get out of taking care of me. When I said he may not be lying, it may just be a form of hypochondria, my mom said that's worse: This deep-seated need to one-up my illness is somewhat pathological.

Is this as big a red flag as my parents think it is, or just a weird quirk?

— *I Thought It Was Funny*

I Thought It Was Funny: That's kind of your call. But from my safe little chair, I imagine being years or maybe decades into a marriage with this person and needing serious care — care like I have watched friends and family need, up close. Or, egad, having a kid with serious issues. And if my life partner responded to this by ignoring the real needs completely so he could take to his bed with an acute case of self-pity, then I might look back on this moment and ask, whyyy didn't I take this “quirk” seriously?

Think about it: responds to need by “needing” more himself. Wow.

Thank your parents for saying

the awkward thing, and yourself for daring to listen. Now keep going and ask why you missed it till now.

Readers' thoughts:

- He said he had covid yet still went to in-person work and socializing? He either lied about having a highly transmissible virus or he deliberately exposed his friends and co-workers to said virus. Don't let the door hit him on the [butt] on the way out.

- Always the same illness you have? Tonsillitis? Walk away over his lack of imagination.

Dear Carolyn: Over the last few years, I have been dealing with chronic pain and other health problems. Whenever these issues come up in conversation with a group of old friends, a couple of them give me unsolicited health advice: Have you tried yoga? Have you tried turmeric? Have you tried essential oils? The list goes on. This “advice” is often uninformed, bogus, untested and/or derived from social media. I've tried saying, “I appreciate the thought, but I'm not looking for advice.” But that doesn't seem to get the message across. Lately, I've just stopped sharing altogether, but these are old friends, and that feels lousy. Is there anything else I can say?

— *Stopped Sharing*

Stopped Sharing: You could front-load your request to be heard and supported vs. coached: “I've had some stuff going on that I'd like to share, but I'm definitely looking for an ear, not advice — hope that's okay with everyone.” They'd have to be pretty special not to agree to that. And if they forget themselves and throw remedies at you, then you can say, “Remember the deal, thanks.” Or, “Just an ear, thanks.” Sorry about the multiple chronic pains.

Write to Carolyn Hax at tellme@washpost.com. Get her column delivered to your inbox each morning at wapo.st@ethax.

Join the discussion live at noon Fridays at [washingtonpost.com/live-chats](https://www.washingtonpost.com/live-chats).

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YouTube star jabs at the 'woke' after buying skate park

SKATE PARK FROM C1

sions with Pool and members of his entourage, typically joined by controversial conservative internet personalities such as Laura Loomer. Pool's show has also featured white nationalist leaders and, once, a chaotic interview with Ye, the rapper formerly known as Kanye West, amid his high-profile meltdown.

Even among pro-Trump commentators, Pool stands out for his heated rhetoric, often claiming that the United States is on the verge of a second civil war. On July 25, Pool tweeted that Vice President Kamala Harris is "Hitler and Stalin combined but times 200."

When he isn't hobnobbing with internet extremists, Pool rides his skateboard. A lot. He has made a skater-esque beanie into his trademark fashion choice, even wearing it to formal locations such as the Trump White House and Mar-a-Lago, and has built skate ramps at a Maryland compound he's dubbed the "Skate Mansion."

Pool's clashes with the Martinsburg skate park set began in August 2023, when its organizers announced plans for a party to celebrate the park's 10th anniversary.

Pool, without consulting the organizers of the Martinsburg event, announced on Instagram that he would offer \$20,000 in prize money for the event. Loath to associate with Pool's politics, some skaters posted on Instagram that Pool wasn't invited to the event and would be removed if he showed up.

"It wasn't even like we were leftist or anything," Amos said. "We didn't want to be associated with that hateful stuff."

Amid opposition from the skaters, Pool dropped his plans to offer the prize. But a few months later in November 2023, he quietly bought the skate park's land,

purchasing the slab and a nearby building through a limited liability company for \$850,000.

"They don't own the spot," Pool later said on his show in July 2024, explaining the purchase. "By what right do they have to tell me I can't stand on a derelict piece of property where they're squatting?"

Pool has floated using the land to build a much larger skate park, but he made few immediate changes to the property, and he hasn't banned anyone from skating there. Because nothing but the ownership had changed, skaters realized only belatedly that he had bought the land.

Still, tensions over Pool's purchase spilled into public view in late June, when Instagram accounts associated with skaters who used the skate park before Pool's purchase complained about the purchase.

"You may be able to buy out our land, but you can not buy out our scene," one Instagram user wrote.

The operator of an Instagram account associated with the skate park's original organizers reposted those messages critical of Pool. The skate park's former organizers declined an interview with The Post, saying in a message that they rejected Pool's contest money because they want to "be left alone and have a safe place to burn off some energy after work."

"We didn't want a billion people showing up to our small town DIY looking for a \$20k payday," the account's owner said in an Instagram message. "We're not in wheel sports for a paycheck."

On his YouTube show, Pool has cast the decision to purchase the park alternately as just a savvy business decision and as a jab at the "woke" elements who sought to keep him out of the park in the first place. Pool claims his critics have tried to cast him as a "comic-book villain," when his only crime was offering tens of thousands of dollars to improve a sport he



RAMIN TALAEI/CORBIS/GETTY IMAGES



WILL SOMMER/THE WASHINGTON POST

ABOVE: Tim Pool first came to prominence as an independent reporter live-streaming the Occupy Wall Street protests in New York in 2012.

LEFT: Pool, now a deep-pocketed right-wing video sensation, clashed with local skaters in Martinsburg, W.Va., after he offered a \$20,000 prize for their skate park's 10th anniversary event.

loves.

"I tried to give them \$20,000 for nothing!" Pool said in his show, claiming to be perplexed by the skaters' ingratitude.

But Pool has also described the purchase as a win for the right, saying it was part of "real-world efforts to win a culture war." Jeremy Hambly, a popular YouTube commenter associated with Pool who goes by the name "The Quartering," said

in a video that Pool's decision to buy the land was like "a mini 'Elon buying Twitter' scenario."

Pool has also used his platform to push back on other charges from what he's called his "woke leftist" foes: that he isn't even good at skateboarding. To prove his skills in a July show, Pool showed his audience several recent videos of him pulling off difficult tricks.

he bills as the "anti-Times Square." In a September 2023 episode of his show, Pool said he would host a Saturday-morning cartoon show at the coffee shop for children — possibly with conservative cartoons created by fellow conservative pundit Ben Shapiro's "The Daily Wire" website.

Pool casts himself as a defender of conservative Martinsburg virtues, claiming that "woke younger elements" from Washington, D.C., and nearby Frederick, Md., are infiltrating the town in search of cheaper rents, prompting local concerns that they're bringing "their politics of degeneracy" with them.

"They just don't want to see Martinsburg turn into San Francisco," Pool said in a July 3 episode of his podcast.

Pool has made other forays into West Virginia skateboarding. Pool lives just outside of Martinsburg and built a private skate park called "Boonies HQ" in the same county.

Pool's money looms large at Boonies. In April, he hosted a bustling skating contest there and offered cash "bounties" for skateboarding tricks. The most difficult bounty featured a ramp with an unusually steep 11-foot drop, with a \$10,000 prize for whoever could land it. One skater broke his femur in an attempt at the drop and was taken away in an ambulance, later saying in an interview on one of Pool's YouTube channels that he probably faces a year of medical treatment and physical therapy before he can skateboard again. (Pool gave him the \$10,000 anyway.)

While little about the Martinsburg skate park has changed, Amos said most skaters are staying away because they don't want to be associated with Pool — or improve his property with more volunteer construction work on the ramps.

"After Tim Pool bought it, what's the point?" Amos said. "You don't want to go there, because who knows what he could do?"

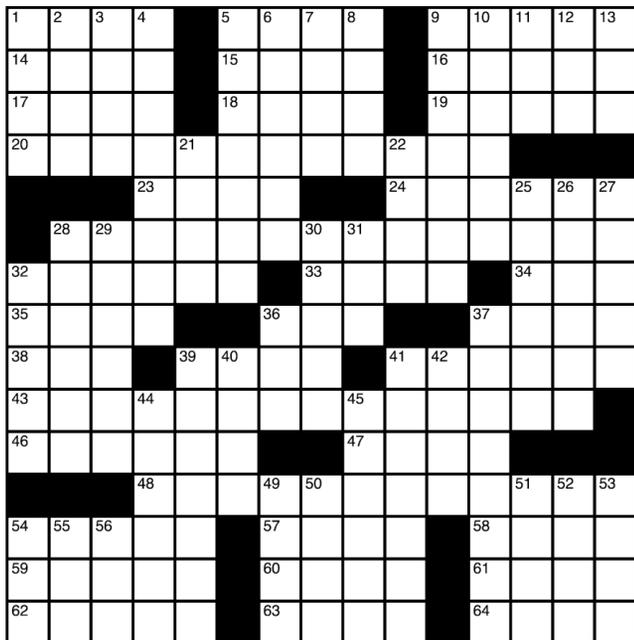
But Pool's critics made at least one more addition to the park. Amid the usual skate park graffiti, nestled above a drawing of Garfield the cat smoking a joint, someone spray-painted a message implying that Pool can't pull off a skateboarding trick called the "slappy grind." Their message: "Tim Pool can't slappy."

LA TIMES CROSSWORD

By Seth Weitberg

ACROSS

- 1 Desert hill shaped by wind
- 5 bene
- 9 Tax deadline month
- 14 Breakfast chain that serves stacks
- 15 Gem with milky iridescence
- 16 Ecological community
- 17 Daughter of Katie Holmes
- 18 Fictional sleuth Wolfe
- 19 Conked out
- 20 Be too afraid to
- 23 Restaurateur Matsuhisa
- 24 Red Sox div.
- 28 Add extra protection
- 32 Walks quickly
- 33 Arterial blockage
- 34 House mem.
- 35 Doesn't stick the landing, say
- 36 Tennis great Shriver
- 37 Pirelli product
- 38 Responded to a growling stomach
- 39 Superstar
- 41 Plato's hometown
- 43 Ask leading questions
- 46 "That's true about me"
- 47 Wee bit
- 48 Noncash corporate benefits, or what a cook would call the starts of 20-, 28-, and 43-Across?
- 54 " _ luck!"
- 57 Verdi tragedy
- 58 Water repellent?
- 59 Easy-to-read font
- 60 Word with bed or engine
- 61 Podcaster Klein
- 62 1983 Streisand title role
- 63 Some video game inhabitants
- 64 Quakers, e.g.



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8/13/24

DOWN

- 1 Ultimate equipment that weighs 175 grams
- 2 "Not happening"
- 3 Wrap for a tobiko maki roll
- 4 Magnificence
- 5 Only
- 6 Bare one's soul
- 7 Root in Hawaiian cuisine
- 8 Baseball family name
- 9 Big name in vodka
- 10 Steal
- 11 Filling in a tobiko maki roll
- 12 Little scamp
- 13 " _ that sink in"
- 21 Nobel Peace Prize winner Annan
- 22 Filled tortilla
- 25 Better ventilated
- 26 Rears, at sea
- 27 Hunts and pecks on a keyboard
- 28 Wodehouse character Wooster

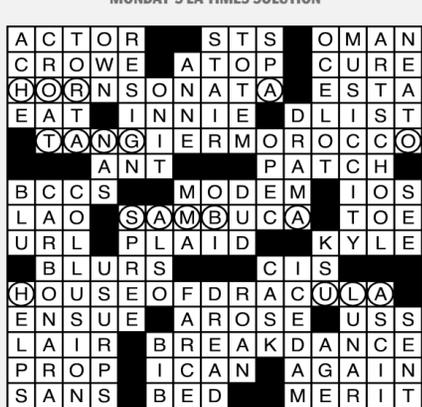
29 Door to the street

- 30 Teatro alla _ : Milan opera house
- 31 Horror movie street
- 32 Like shade trees
- 36 " _ favor": "please," in Spanish
- 37 What are

- a-changin', in a Dylan song
- 39 "Possibly not even that"
- 40 " _ arigato": Japanese "thank you very much"
- 41 Fireplace accessories
- 42 Foolish one
- 44 Show derision to
- 45 Ego of "SNL"

- 49 Movie musical starring Judi Dench and Idris Elba
- 50 Fuzzy fruit
- 51 Seep
- 52 Rat (on)
- 53 Win shares in basketball, e.g.
- 54 Put down, as od
- 55 Mine deposit
- 56 Tuna container

MONDAY'S LA TIMES SOLUTION



TELEVISION

| | 8/13/24 | 7:00 | 7:30 | 8:00 | 8:30 | 9:00 | 9:30 | 10:00 | 10:30 | 11:00 |
|------------------|---|--|--|----------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 4.1 WRC (NBC) | • NBC News | • News4 | • America's Got Talent (Live) | • Password | • News | | | | | |
| 4.2 WRC (IND) | Roseanne | Roseanne | Frasier | Frasier | Frasier | Frasier | Frasier | Nanny | | |
| 5.1 WTTG (Fox) | • Fox 5 | • TMZ | • Beat Shazam | • The Quiz With Balls | • Fox 5 at 10 | • Fox 5 | | | | |
| 7.1 WJLA (ABC) | • Wheel | • Jeopardy! | • Celebrity Fam | • Judge Steve Harvey | • Judge (SF) | • News | | | | |
| 9.1 WUSA (CBS) | • InsideEd. | • ET | • Big Brother | • FBI | • FBI: International | • 9 News | | | | |
| 14.1 WFDC (UNI) | • Rosa | • Marea de pasiones | • Elias say yo | • Noticias | | | | | | |
| 20.1 WDCW (MNTV) | • FamFeud | • FamFeud | • Fox 5 News | • FamFeud | • FamFeud | • FamFeud | • Puzler | • Chi. Fire | | |
| 22.1 WMPY (PBS) | • Farm | • Outdoors | • Great Scenic Railway Journeys 30th Anniversary Special | • Memory | | | | | | |
| 26.1 WETA (PBS) | • PBS News Hour | • Finding Your Roots | • Experience | • A Boston (R)evolution | | | | | | |
| 32.1 WHUT (PBS) | • Battlegrounds | • Independent Lens | • Nature | • Doug's.. | • BBCNe.. | | | | | |
| 50.1 WDCW (CW) | • Neighbor | • Neighbor | • Conners | • Conners | • DC News Now | • Seinfeld | | | | |
| 66.1 WPXW (ION) | • Chicago Fire | • Chicago Fire | • Chicago Fire | • Chicago Fire | • Chi. Fire | | | | | |
| A&E | Neighbor. | Neighbor. | Neighbor. | Neighbor. | Neighbor. | Neighbor. | Neighbor. | Neighbor. | Neighbor. | Neighbor. |
| AMC | (5:00) Movie: Bad Boys II ★★ (2003) | | Movie: The Fugitive ★★★ (1993) An innocent man must evade the law as he pursues a killer. | | | | | Movie: Lethal ... | | |
| Animal Planet | North Woods Law | Wardens of the North | Wardens of the North | Wardens of the North | Wardens of the North | Wardens of the North | Wardens of the North | Wardens of the North | | |
| BET | Celebrity Family Feud | Celebrity Fam | Payne | As. Living | Blackson | Payne | As. Living | | | |
| Bravo | The Real Housewives of Dubai | The Real Housewives of Dubai | The Real Housewives of Dubai | The Real Housewives of Dubai | The Real Housewives of Dubai | The Real Housewives of Dubai | The Real Housewives of Dubai | | | |
| Cartoon Network | King/Hill | King/Hill | Burgers | Burgers | Burgers | American | American | American | American | |
| CNN | E. B. OutFront (Live) | Cooper 360 (Live) | The Source (Live) | CNN (Live) | Conners | DC News Now | Laura | | | |
| Comedy Central | (:10) Office | (:45) Office | (:20) The Office | (:55) Office | Office | Office | Office | DailyShow | | |
| Discovery | Deadliest Catch | Deadliest Catch | In the Eye | Contraband | Contraband | Contraband | Contraband | Contraband | | |
| Disney | Big City | Big City | Ladybug | Marvel's | Hailey | Hailey | Raven | | | |
| E! | Movie: Neighbors 2: Sorority Rising (2016) | | Movie: Neighbors ★★★ (2014) | | | | Movie: Lethal ... | | | |
| ESPN | Fantasy Football Now (Live) | SpoCenter The Madden '25 Ratings | In the Arena: Serena The Perfect Storm | The Ultimate Fighter | SportCtr (Live) | | | | | |
| ESPN2 | In the Arena: Serena Point of No Return | In the Arena: Serena The Deep End | The Ulti The Biggest Fight of My Life | NFL Live | Arena | | | | | |
| Food Network | Chopped | Chopped | Bobby's Triple Threat | Alex vs America | Chopped | | | | | |
| Fox News | Ingram (Live) | Jesse Watters (Live) | Hannity (Live) | Gutfeld! | Fox News | | | | | |
| Freeform | (6:00) Movie: Lightyear ★★★ | Movie: Cars 3 ★★ (2017) Lightning McQueen prepares for racing's biggest stage. | Movie: The Equalizer 2 ★★ (2018) Robert McCall fights assassins to avenge his friend's death. | Movie: The Equalizer 2 ★★ (2018) | | | | | | |
| FX | (5:00) Movie: Man on Fire ★★ (2004) | Movie: One Perfect Wedding (2021) | Movie: The Equalizer 2 ★★ (2018) Robert McCall fights assassins to avenge his friend's death. | Movie: The Equalizer 2 ★★ (2018) | | | | | | |
| Hallmark | Movie: One Perfect Wedding (2021) | Movie: Royally Ever After (2018) A teacher learns that her boyfriend is actually a prince. | Movie: The Equalizer 2 ★★ (2018) | Movie: The Equalizer 2 ★★ (2018) | | | | | | |
| Hallmark M&M | Hailey Dean Mysteries | Hailey Dean Mysteries | Hailey Dean Mysteries | Hailey Dean Mysteries | Hailey Dean Mysteries | Hailey Dean Mysteries | Hailey Dean Mysteries | Hailey Dean Mysteries | Hailey Dean Mysteries | Hailey Dean Mysteries |
| HBO | (6:25) Movie: Wonder Woman 1984 ★★ | Hard Knocks | Industry | Hard Knocks | | | | | | |
| HGTV | Dream Home | 100 Day Hotel Challenge | HuntIntl | Hunt Intl | Hunt Intl | Hunt Intl | Hunt Intl | Hunt Intl | | |
| History | (6:00) American | American Godfathers: The Five Families | (:05) American Godfathers | (:05) American Godfathers | (:05) American Godfathers | (:05) American Godfathers | (:05) American Godfathers | (:05) American Godfathers | | |
| Lifetime | Castle | Castle | Castle | Castle | Castle | Castle | Castle | Castle | | |
| MASN | (6:30) MLB Baseball | O's Xtra | Wall to Wall Baseball | 24Perfect | Bensinger | | | | | |
| Monumental | Hometown | Alex | Caps Classics | Wizards Classics | | | | | | |
| MSNBC | The ReidOut (Live) | All In With (Live) | Wagner (Live) | Last Word (Live) | 11th Hour | | | | | |
| MTV | Love, Hip Hop | Love, Hip Hop | The Surreal Life | Love, Hip Hop | Unfaithful | | | | | |
| Nat'l Geographic | Port Protection | Port Protection | Port Protection | Life Below Zero | Life Below | | | | | |
| Nickelodeon | Knuckles | SpongeB.. | SpongeB.. | Friends | Friends | Friends | Friends | Friends | | |
| NWSN | On Balance (Live) | Cuomo (Live) | Dan Abrams (Live) | Banfield (Live) | Cuomo | | | | | |
| Paramount | Two and a Half Men | Two and a Half Men | Movie: Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade ★★★ (1989) Indy's hunt for his missing father leads to the Holy Grail. | Movie: Mummy... (2019) | | | | | | |
| Paramount+Sho | (6:50) Movie: Tombstone ★★★ (1993) | Movie: Outlaw Posse (2024) | Movie: Kid (2019) | | | | | | | |
| Syfy | (6:30) Movie: Transformers: Dark of the Moon ★★ (2011) The Decepticons renew their battle against the Autobots. | Movie: The Book of Eli ★★ (2010) | | | | | | | | |
| TBS | Big Bang | Leadoff | MLB Baseball Los Angeles Dodgers at Milwaukee Brewers (Live) | MLBClose | | | | | | |
| TCM | (6:00) Movie: That Man From Rio (1964) | Movie: Breathless ★★★ (1959) | (:45) Cinéma: Pierrot le fou ★★★ (1965) | | | | | | | |
| TLC | Fat Fabulous | Fat Fabulous | Fat Fabulous | Welcome | Unexpect.. | | | | | |
| TNT | (5:30) Movie: The Accountant (2016) | Movie: Tombstone ★★★ (1993) Wyatt Earp and Doc Holliday battle the Clanton gang. | (:45) Movie: Magnificent Seven (2... | | | | | | | |
| Travel | My Horror Story | My Horror Story | My Horror Story | My Horror Story | My Horror Story | My Horror Story | My Horror Story | My Horror Story | | |
| TruTV | No Gamble | No Gamble | No Gamble | No Gamble | Movie: The Other Guys (2010) | | | | | |
| TV Land | Raymond | Raymond | Raymond | Raymond | (:05) King | | | | | |
| TV One | CosbySh.. | CosbySh.. | Lv Single | Lv Single | Lv Single | Lv Single | Lv Single | Lv Single | | |
| USA Network | Law & Order: SVU | WWE NXT (Live) | Movie: Unbearable Weight of Ma... | | | | | | | |
| VH1 | Love & Hip Hop | Love & Hip Hop | Love & Hip Hop | Love & Hip Hop | Hip Hop | | | | | |
| WNCB | Who Stole Cleaning! | Fed Gov | 7News at.. | SportsTalk | WorldNe.. | WJLNe.. | DraftKings | National | | |

LEGEND: Bold indicates new or live programs ♦ High Definition Movie Ratings (from TMS) ★★★ Excellent ★★ Good ★ Fair ★★ Poor No stars: not rated

Father and son played by real-life father and son

THEATER REVIEW FROM C1

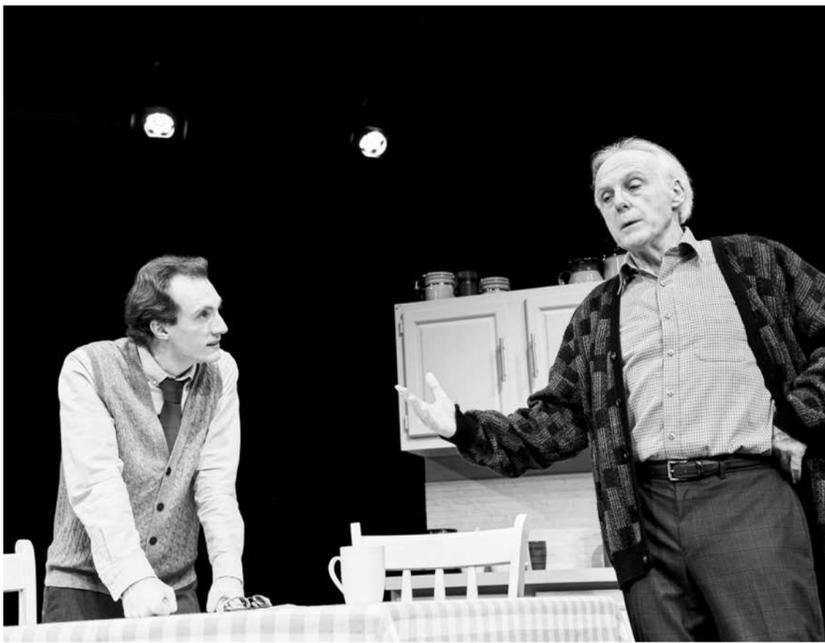
rounded by a yawning black-box void that seems to close in claustrophobically in particularly fraught moments. (The deceptively simple but unmistakably powerful lighting is by Hailey LaRoe, with unfussy character-defining costumes from Lauren K. Lambie.)

For all the play's brevity and the production's simplicity, "A Number" somehow makes room for an anguished investigation into the nature-nurture metaphysics of the situation as well: Who am I, Bernard? wonders, if there was — is — another me wandering the London pavements? What makes me the individual I am? How and why am I different from Bernard I — so broken a thing that our father would think to start all over again — and what does it mean that the man who's been a decent parent to me was a massive failure to my forebear? And the most

anguished question of all: How am I implicated in all this?

Churchill, among the fiercest and boldest of Britain's modern playwrights, goes nearly as hard about identity in "A Number" as she's gone in other plays about sociopolitical upheavals ("Mad Forest" and "Far Away") and sexual politics ("Cloud 9") and most famously "Top Girls" — big-swinging, big-think exercises all of them, none as interested in providing answers as suggesting the endless complications involved in opening the questions. "He who learns must suffer," Aeschylus is supposed to have said, and certainly Churchill knows that the process of poking about among these uncertainties can unearth no end of pain.

Salter and Bernard will suffer, to be sure, as their not-quite-shared past insinuates itself more insistently into their increasingly complicated present. We frail, fallible mortals talk sometimes



Max Jackson and David Bryan Jackson in Edge of the Universe Theater's "A Number."

What would make a parent do such a thing? How badly would he have had to mess things up? What befell the original Bernard? Where was Mom in all this?

about leaving our yesterdays behind, especially when we've been brave enough to take a break and pull out a fresh slate. But while it's true we can only start where we stand and work forward, the ultimately tragic "A Number" suggests there are some burdens that can't ever be entirely laid down.

A Number, through Sept. 1 at Gunston Arts Center Theatre II in Arlington, Va. About 1 hour without intermission. edgeuniversetheater.org.

MOVIE DIRECTORY

| DISTRICT | | MARYLAND | | VIRGINIA | |
|---|--|--|--|---|--|
| <p>AMC Georgetown 14 3111 K Street N.W. </p> <p>Cuckoo (R) CC: 11:50-2:20-7:30-10:15</p> <p>Harold and the Purple Crayon (PG) CC: 12:00-2:15-4:35</p> <p>Despicable Me 4 (PG) CC: 12:25-2:50-5:10-9:10</p> <p>Deadpool & Wolverine (R) CC: 11:45-2:45-5:15</p> <p>Inside Out 2 (PG) CC: 11:40-2:10-4:40-9:35</p> <p>Twisters (PG-13) CC: 1:35-4:25-7:15-10:05</p> <p>Trap (PG-13) CC: 11:35-2:10-4:50-7:35-10:10</p> <p>It Ends With Us (PG-13) CC: 11:30-12:30-1:20-2:30-3:30-4:20-5:30-6:30-7:20-8:30-9:30-10:40</p> <p>Longlegs (R) CC: 2:50-5:20-10:20</p> <p>Didi (R) CC: 2:25-4:55-9:45</p> <p>Sing Sing (R) CC: 11:50-4:55-7:30-10:05</p> <p>Deadpool & Wolverine: The IMAX Experience (R) CC: 4:30-7:30</p> <p>Deadpool & Wolverine 3D (R) CC: 4:00-7:10-10:10</p> <p>Borderlands: The IMAX Experience (PG-13) CC: 11:30-2:00-10:30</p> <p>Despicable Me 4 (PG) CC: 6:50-9:40-12:30</p> <p>Inside Out 2 (PG) CC: 7:05</p> <p>Borderlands (PG-13) CC: 12:20-7:50</p> <p>Didi (R) CC: 7:25</p> | | <p>AFI Silver Theatre Cultural Center 6833 Columbia Road </p> <p>Didi (R) CC: 3:05</p> <p>Indiscreet (PG) 4:50</p> <p>Shampoo (R) 12:00-9:10</p> <p>The Women 2-15</p> <p>The Conversation 50th Anniversary 11:50-2:10-4:30-6:50-9:15</p> <p>Didi (R) 1:05-5:05-7:05-9:05</p> <p>Libeled Lady (NR) 7:00</p> <p>AMC Academy 8 6188 Greenbelt Road </p> <p>Harold and the Purple Crayon (PG) CC: 12:45-3:00-5:15</p> <p>Despicable Me 4 (PG) CC: 1:20-3:40-7:40-10:00</p> <p>Deadpool & Wolverine (R) CC: 1:00-4:00-7:00-10:00</p> <p>Inside Out 2 (PG) CC: 2:00-4:30-7:00</p> <p>Twisters (PG-13) CC: 1:45-4:10-7:30-9:45</p> <p>Trap (PG-13) CC: 1:30-4:50-7:10-10:20</p> <p>It Ends With Us (PG-13) CC: 1:30-4:50-7:10-10:20</p> <p>Twisters (PG-13) CC: 1:45-4:10-7:30-9:45</p> <p>Trap (PG-13) CC: 1:30-4:50-7:10-10:20</p> <p>It Ends With Us (PG-13) CC: 1:30-4:50-7:10-10:20</p> <p>Twisters (PG-13) CC: 1:45-4:10-7:30-9:45</p> <p>Trap (PG-13) CC: 1:30-4:50-7:10-10:20</p> <p>AMC Annapolis Mall 11 100 Annapolis Mall Road </p> <p>Cuckoo (R) CC: 9:35-9:40-11:05</p> <p>Harold and the Purple Crayon (PG) CC: 10:00-12:30-3:00</p> <p>Despicable Me 4 (PG) CC: 9:25-12:10-2:30-4:50-7:15</p> <p>Deadpool & Wolverine (R) CC: 10:45-1:45-4:45-7:45-10:45</p> <p>Inside Out 2 (PG) CC: 11:15-1:40-4:10-6:50</p> <p>Twisters (PG-13) CC: 11:00-1:50-4:40-7:40-10:00</p> <p>Trap (PG-13) CC: 10:40-1:15-4:50-8:30-10:35</p> <p>It Ends With Us (PG-13) CC: 9:30-10:30-12:30-1:30-3:30-4:30-6:30-7:30-9:30</p> <p>Borderlands (PG-13) CC: 10:00-12:35-1:30-5:40-8:15-10:45-11:30</p> <p>Deadpool & Wolverine 3D (R) CC: 12:45-6:45</p> <p>Deadpool & Wolverine (R) CC: 9:45-11:45-2:45-3:45-9:45</p> <p>AMC Center Park 8 4001 Powder Mill Rd. </p> <p>Harold and the Purple Crayon (PG) CC: 12:30-3:15</p> <p>Despicable Me 4 (PG) CC: 11:30-2:00-4:30-7:00-9:00</p> <p>Deadpool & Wolverine (R) CC: 11:45-1:15-5:45-7:15-10:15</p> <p>Twisters (PG-13) CC: 1:00-4:00-7:00-10:00</p> <p>Trap (PG-13) CC: 11:30-2:15-4:30-7:45-10:15</p> <p>It Ends With Us (PG-13) CC: 12:45-3:45-5:15-6:45-8:15-9:45</p> <p>Borderlands (PG-13) CC: 12:00-2:30-5:00-7:30-10:00</p> <p>Longlegs (R) CC: 2:45-9:30</p> <p>Deadpool & Wolverine 3D (R) CC: 4:15</p> <p>AMC Columbia 14 10300 Little Patuxent Parkway </p> <p>Borderlands (PG-13) CC: 8:20</p> <p>The Firing Squad (PG-13) 1:00</p> <p>Cuckoo (R) CC: 11:10-1:50-4:30-7:10</p> <p>Deadpool & Wolverine (R) CC: 11:00-2:00-7:30</p> <p>Harold and the Purple Crayon (PG) CC: 11:45-2:10-4:40-7:20</p> <p>A Quiet Place: Day One (PG-13) CC: 5:50</p> <p>Despicable Me 4 (PG) CC: 10:30-3:30-6:30</p> <p>Inside Out 2 (PG) CC: 11:30-3:15-5:25-7:35</p> <p>Longlegs (R) CC: 3:20</p> <p>Twisters (PG-13) CC: 10:40-1:40-4:40-7:40</p> <p>Trap (PG-13) CC: 11:10-1:50-4:40-7:25</p> <p>It Ends With Us (PG-13) CC: 11:10-1:24-2:10-3:40-5:10-6:50-8:10</p> <p>Borderlands (PG-13) CC: 5:00</p> <p>Deadpool & Wolverine 3D (R) CC: 1:30-7:30</p> <p>Despicable Me 4 3D (PG) CC: 1:00-6:00</p> <p>Deadpool & Wolverine: The IMAX Experience (R) CC: 4:45</p> <p>The Fabulous Four (R) CC: 10:30AM</p> <p>Borderlands: The IMAX Experience (PG-13) CC: 11:45-2:15-7:45</p> <p>RiffTrax Live: Point Break 7:00</p> <p>Deadpool & Wolverine (R) CC: 10:30-11:30-2:30-4:30-5:30-8:30</p> <p>Borderlands (PG-13) CC: 10:45-1:30-4:15</p> <p>AMC DINE-IN Rio Cinema 18 9811 Washington Center </p> <p>Bad Boys Ride or Die (R) CC: 12:00-3:15</p> <p>Cuckoo (R) CC: 11:00-1:45-8:00-10:30</p> <p>Harold and the Purple Crayon (PG) CC: 11:10-2:30-5:00-7:30-9:30</p> <p>Despicable Me 4 (PG) CC: 11:00-1:30-9:15</p> <p>Deadpool & Wolverine (R) CC: 9:35-12:45-3:55-7:05-10:15</p> <p>9:00-9:20-10:00-10:30-12:30-1:10-1:40-3:20-3:40-4:10-4:50-6:50-7:20-7:30-10:00-10:40-11:40</p> <p>Twisters (PG-13) 10:10-10:50-1:10-1:50-4:10-4:50-7:10-7:50-10:10-10:50</p> <p>Trap (PG-13) 9:00-11:45-2:30-5:15-8:00-10:50</p> <p>It Ends With Us (PG-13) XD: 9:40</p> <p>Borderlands (PG-13) 9:00-11:40-2:20-5:00-7:40-10:20</p> <p>Deadpool & Wolverine 3D (R) 9:50-12:10-1:40-4:20-6:30-9:40-10:30</p> <p>The Terminator (R) 7:15</p> <p>Bad Boys Ride or Die (R) 10:40-1:35-4:30-7:25-10:20</p> <p>Deadpool & Wolverine: The IMAX Experience (R) 6:40</p> <p>Deadpool & Wolverine 3D (R) 1:45</p> <p>The Last Front 3:45-6:45</p> <p>Twilight of the Warriors: Walled In (R) 12:00-3:00-6:20-9:35</p> <p>Deadpool & Wolverine: The IMAX 3D Experience (R) 3:20</p> <p>Borderlands: The IMAX Experience (PG-13) 12:35-10:10</p> <p>RiffTrax Live: Point Break 7:00</p> <p>Deadpool & Wolverine (R) 10:50-11:20-12:30-2:00-2:30-3:50-4:50-5:20-5:50-7:15-8:10-8:40-9:15-10:20</p> <p>It Ends With Us (PG-13) 5:45</p> <p>Regal Germantown 2000 Capital Boulevard </p> <p>Minions: The Rise of Gru (PG) 11:00AM</p> <p>Sing 2 (PG) 11:00AM</p> <p>Cuckoo (R) 10:45-1:50-4:40-7:40-10:20</p> <p>Harold and the Purple Crayon (PG) 3:00-5:40-8:20</p> <p>Inside Out 2 (PG) 10:30-1:00-3:40-6:20-8:50</p> <p>Deadpool & Wolverine (R) 10:50-12:10-2:50-5:10-5:30-6:50-7:20-8:40-10:10-10:25</p> | | <p>Regal Hyattsville Royale 6655 America Boulevard </p> <p>Minions: The Rise of Gru (PG) 11:00AM</p> <p>Sing 2 (PG) 11:00AM</p> <p>Cuckoo (R) 12:40-3:40-6:30-9:45</p> <p>Harold and the Purple Crayon (PG) 1:20-4:00</p> <p>A Quiet Place: Day One (PG-13) 11:50-2:40-5:40-8:20</p> <p>Twisters (PG-13) 1:00-4:15-7:30-10:45</p> <p>Trap (PG-13) 2:00-4:55-8:00-11:00</p> <p>It Ends With Us (PG-13) 11:30-3:00-6:30-10:00</p> <p>Borderlands (PG-13) 1:00-4:00-7:00-10:00</p> <p>Greenbelt Cinema 129 Centaway </p> <p>Twisters (PG-13) 7:45</p> <p>It Ends With Us (PG-13) 7:30</p> <p>Landmark Bethesda Road Cinema 7255 Woodmont Avenue </p> <p>Despicable Me 4 (PG) 1:00-4:00-6:45</p> <p>Deadpool & Wolverine (R) 4:30-7:15</p> <p>Twisters (PG-13) 1:45-4:45-7:20</p> <p>It Ends With Us (PG-13) 1:15-4:10-7:00</p> <p>Didi (R) 4:15-7:10</p> <p>Deadpool & Wolverine (R) 1:30-4:20</p> <p>Landmark Harbour Center 2474 Spoons Island Road Unit H-1 </p> <p>Twisters (PG-13) 7:45</p> <p>It Ends With Us (PG-13) 7:30</p> <p>Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels (R) 1:30-7:30</p> <p>Harold and the Purple Crayon (PG) 2:15-4:40-6:45</p> <p>Despicable Me 4 (PG) 2:25-4:40-7:05</p> <p>Deadpool & Wolverine (R) 3:30-4:30-7:30</p> <p>Inside Out 2 (PG) 2:50-5:05-7:25</p> <p>Twisters (PG-13) 1:05-4:05-7:00</p> <p>Trap (PG-13) 1:00-4:50-7:20</p> <p>It Ends With Us (PG-13) 1:15-4:20-7:10</p> <p>Didi (R) 2:00</p> <p>Landmark Annapolis Harbour Center 2474 Spoons Island Road Unit H-1 </p> <p>Twisters (PG-13) 7:45</p> <p>It Ends With Us (PG-13) 7:30</p> <p>Phenix Theatres Marlow 6 3699 Branch Ave. </p> <p>Harold and the Purple Crayon (PG) 11:00-1:35-4:30</p> <p>Despicable Me 4 (PG) 12:10-1:30-4:25-7:10-10:00</p> <p>Inside Out 2 (PG) 12:30-1:50-5:30-8:00</p> <p>Trap (PG-13) 12:00-2:30-5:00-7:30-10:00</p> <p>Borderlands (PG-13) 12:00-2:30-5:00-7:30-10:00</p> <p>Twisters (PG-13) 11:30-12:30-3:10-6:10-10:15</p> <p>Trap (PG-13) 2:20-8:30-9:00-10:00</p> <p>It Ends With Us (PG-13) 12:00-1:50-3:10-6:20-9:20-12:00</p> <p>Despicable Me 4 (PG) 12:10-1:40-4:15-7:15-10:15</p> 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CLASSIC DOONESBURY



PICKLES



BRIDGE

BOTH SIDES VULNERABLE

NORTH
 ♠ K1094
 ♥ 762
 ♦ A1875
 ♣ 7

WEST
 ♠ 732
 ♥ AK143
 ♦ 6
 ♣ AQ52

EAST
 ♠ 6
 ♥ Q1098
 ♦ KQ10942
 ♣ 64

SOUTH (D)
 ♠ AQJ85
 ♥ 5
 ♦ 3
 ♣ KJ10983

The bidding:
 SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
 1♣ 1♥ Dbl 4♥
 4♠ Pass Pass 5♥
 5♠ Dbl All Pass
 Opening lead — ♥K

“I have this irrational fear of speed bumps, but I'm slowly getting over it.” —graffiti.

Some players seem to dread not drawing trumps. Against today's five spades doubled, West led two high hearts, and South ruffed and fearfully took the ace and nine of trumps. He next led a club to his jack.

If West had won with the queen, South would have succeeded with a ruffing finesse against West's ace later. But West won with ... the ace!

Declarer ruffed the heart return, took the king of clubs and led the jack. When West followed low, South ruffed with dummy's king, expecting “East's” queen to fall. When East discarded, South took only nine tricks.

South would do better to draw no trumps at all. He leads a diamond to dummy's ace at Trick Three and returns a club to his jack. Even if West wins deceptively with the ace and forces with a heart, South has trump entries to his hand and can set up the long clubs by taking the king, then ruffing two clubs in dummy.

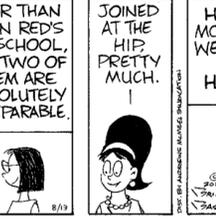
DAILY QUESTION
 You hold:
 ♠ 732♥AKJ43
 ♦ 6♣AQ52

You open one heart, your partner responds one spade, you bid two clubs and he returns to two hearts. What do you say?

ANSWER: Two spades might be a better contract than two hearts. Partner has only two hearts (with three-card support he would have raised directly) but might have five spades. Still, if you bid again, you would show game interest, and your hand is not quite worth a try. Pass.

— Frank Stewart
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RED AND ROVER



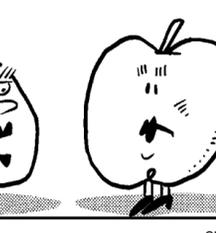
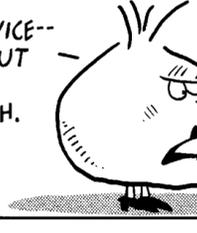
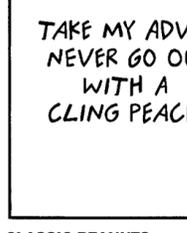
BRIAN BASSET



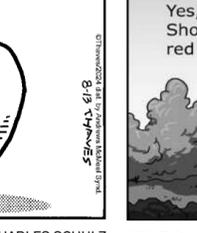
AGNES



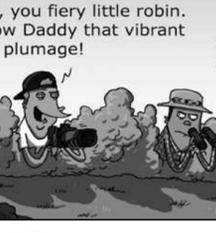
FRANK AND ERNEST



TOM THAVES



WUMO



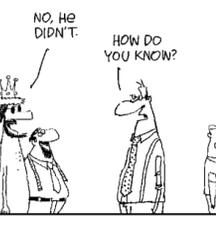
CLASSIC PEANUTS



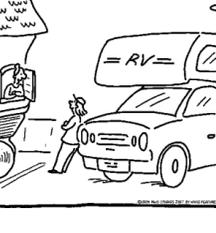
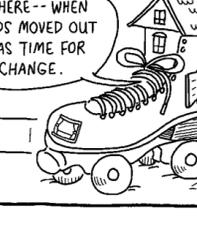
CHARLES SCHULZ



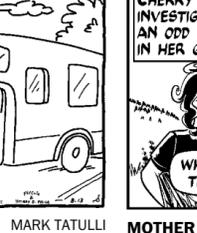
MIKE DU JOUR



RHYMES WITH ORANGE



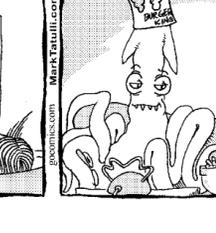
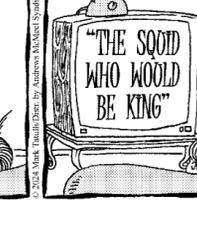
HILARY PRICE



MARK TRAIL



LIO



MARK TATULLI



MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



CHRIS BROWNE



BALDO



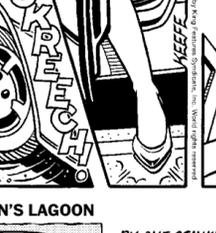
BLONDIE



DEAN YOUNG & JOHN MARSHALL



SALLY FORTH



SUDOKU

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 9 | | | 6 | 7 | | 5 | | |
| | | 3 | | | | | | |
| 1 | 5 | | | 2 | 3 | | 6 | 8 |
| | | | 4 | 8 | | 2 | 1 | |
| | 1 | | 2 | | 9 | | 8 | |
| | 2 | 5 | | 7 | 1 | | | |
| 6 | 3 | | 5 | 1 | | | 2 | 9 |
| | | | | | | | 6 | |
| 9 | | 7 | 4 | | | | | 5 |

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

SCRABBLE GRAMS

How to play: Complete the crossword puzzle by looking at the clues and unscrambling the answers. When the puzzle is complete, unscramble the circled letters to solve the BONUS.

| | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| A1 | E1 | O1 | F4 | H4 | R1 | C3 |
| E1 | I1 | O1 | U1 | S1 | V4 | N1 |
| E1 | O1 | O1 | H4 | L1 | F4 | X8 |
| E1 | O1 | T1 | K5 | N1 | B3 | C3 |

PAR SCORE 160-170
 BEST SCORE 237

FOUR RACK TOTAL
 TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. Finally, 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All the words are in the Official SCRABBLE® Players Dictionary, 5th Edition. SOLUTION TOMORROW

For more information on tournaments and clubs, email NASPA - North American SCRABBLE Players Association info@scrabbleplayers.org. Visit our website - www.scrabbleplayers.org. For puzzle inquiries contact scrgams@gmail.com

SHERMAN'S LAGOON



CURTIS



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| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| 2 | 3 | | | | | | | |
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| | | | | | | | | |

ACROSS

1. Candidly
 5. Elbow or ankle
 6. To live
 7. Blossom

ANSWER
 PLOEYN
 NIOTJ
 ESTXI
 METNSA

DOWN

1. Argue against
 2. Esteemed
 3. It's symbol is Li
 4. Expedite

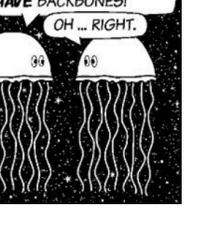
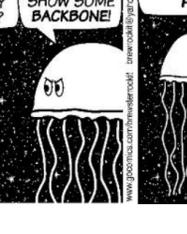
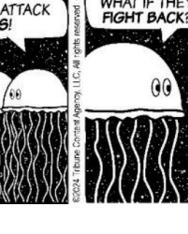
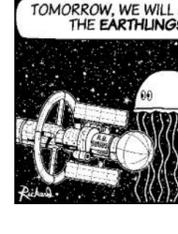
ANSWER
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JUMBLE CROSSWORDS
 by David L. Hoyt

BONUS
 CLUE: He sold more than 360 million records worldwide.

ANSWERS: A-Openly, B-Whisperer, C-Blind, D-Elvis, E-1950s, F-1960s, G-Human, H-40, I-Harmon, J-Johnny Mathis

BREWSTER ROCKIT: SPACE GUY!



Who's up, who's down at midpoint of camp

While Daniels thrives, others are struggling

BY NICKI JHABVALA AND SAM FORTIER

The Washington Commanders are near the midpoint of the pre-season ahead of the second joint practice and game at the Miami Dolphins. While quarterback Jayden Daniels has excelled, there are reminders all over the field that the franchise is at the beginning of a rebuild and has modest expectations for this season.

With less than four weeks until the season opener at the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, here's a look at the standouts and disappointments, the strongest and weakest groups, position battles and other lingering questions.

Jayden Daniels

The quarterback has impressed with his understanding of the scheme, his ability to diagnose the defense and his talent for protecting the ball. Those traits (and his moxie) were on display in the preseason opener when he audibled from a screen to vertical routes on third down without permission and hit a 42-yard gain.

Coaches and teammates have gushed about Daniels over the first couple of weeks. The question is whether he can sustain this high level of play and protect himself over a long season.

Other camp standouts

Offensive tackle Brandon Coleman: Coleman was one of the bigger mysteries going into camp — for coaches and fans — and the stakes were high, given the Commanders' need at left tackle. Although the sample size is minimal and doesn't include

SEE COMMANDERS ON D3

Preseason:

Commanders at Dolphins
Saturday, 7 p.m., WUSA (Ch. 9)

PRO FOOTBALL

As training camp rolls on, the Jets' standoff with Haason Reddick just keeps getting messier. D3

BASEBALL

Red Sox outfielder Jarren Duran gets a two-game suspension after using a homophobic slur. D5



RAFAEL SUANES/USA TODAY SPORTS

"Right now, he's a Gold Glover to me," Nationals Manager Dave Martinez said of outfielder and pitcher favorite Jacob Young. "This guy goes and gets everything."

Covering new ground

Wood is already playing like a star, and he manages to look cool doing it



Kevin B. Blackstone

On the first Friday of August, James Wood peered high into the sky above Nationals Park and began a quickening lope of a dozen or so steps to his right in left field. He eventually slowed and caught a descending baseball off the bat of the Milwaukee Brewers' Rhys Hoskins.

At that moment, in the third inning with just one out, the Nationals were already down 3-0.

Another Brewers base runner, William Contreras, was readying to score from third on Hoskins's flyball.

But Wood appeared unperturbed by the predicament. He simply retrieved the baseball from his glove and, flat-footed as if playing a game of catch, unleashed a fastball toward the catcher, Keibert Ruiz, as Contreras began a dead sprint to home plate. Wood's throw bounced once into Ruiz's mitt as Contreras began to slide — Tony Award-winning

SEE BLACKSTONE ON D5

Nats' Young has been a marvel in center field this season

BY SPENCER NUSBAUM

Jacob Young is, to be succinct, a delight in center field. He's a collection of little steps on an imaginary treadmill as the pitch is thrown. He turns high risks into high rewards at an astounding rate. He is hard to watch on principle alone, if only because the most important part of his growing Gold Glove case — the best reaction time of any full-time center fielder since anyone started to track that sort of thing — happens when most eyes are still

on the baseball.

Metrics love him. The Washington Nationals' pitchers love him. After every catch, members of the relief corps enlarge the diagram of the field on their iPads. There's a line that shows how much ground he covers. And, well?

"He covers, like," closer Kyle Finnegan began before realizing he needed a visual aid. He brought his thumb and index finger up, then stretched them out as far apart as they go.

SEE NATIONALS ON D3

Nationals at Orioles | 6:30 p.m., MASN, MASN2

After coaching Biles, Landi makes a career twist

The elite gymnastics guru's next challenge is to help revive Georgia's once-dominant program

BY EMILY GIAMBALVO

PARIS — Cecile Landi ended her coaching marathon at the Olympics by guiding the world's best gymnast to the final flourish of her redemptive comeback. Landi had counseled Simone Biles three years ago in Tokyo, where she withdrew from nearly every event because of a mental block, and then helped her return to these Games and win four medals.

When Biles competed at her first Olympics in 2016, she already had risen to the top of her sport. Whether Biles could get better seemed uncertain. But as

Biles continued on, with Cecile and Laurent Landi as her new coaches, she kept climbing. Biles mastered innovative elements so difficult that no woman had ever attempted them in a competition, and her all-around dominance made her nearly unstoppable. For Biles, a podium-worthy floor routine marked the satisfying end to her Paris run. And for Cecile Landi, it brought another highlight in a career that will soon take a dramatic turn.

Landi is trading elite gymnastics — the world she has long known, both as a 1996 Olympian for France and as a coach — for

the NCAA. Landi is heading to the University of Georgia to be the co-head coach tasked with revitalizing a program with historic success but recent struggles.

Landi's closing act in this chapter was a memorable Olympics in her home country. Landi was the coach of the U.S. women's gymnastics team, and two of the athletes she and her husband coach year-round in the Houston suburbs — Biles and Jordan Chiles — helped the Americans win gold. Landi's daughter, Juliette, also competed here in diving for France, turning the Olympics into a family trip to Paris.

"It's really insane," Landi said before the competition began, "so I'm trying to not cry."

Landi has coached multiple Olympians and world champions, plus dozens of athletes who went on to compete in college. Top gymnasts from around the country flocked to World Champions Centre, the club owned by Biles's parents, in large part to be coached by the Landis. Everything had been going so well for Landi.

SEE LANDI ON D10

Inside: USA Gymnastics gets bad news on Jordan Chiles's bronze. D2



JABIN BOTSFORD/THE WASHINGTON POST

Cecile Landi, whose U.S. team with Jordan Chiles, left, and Simone Biles won gold in Paris, will be a college coach for the first time.



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THE DAY IN SPORTS

GOLF

Kuchar finally finishes 18th hole at Wyndham

It took a herculean effort to finish the PGA Tour's Wyndham Championship by Sunday night after the remnants of Hurricane Debby washed out an entire day's worth of play Thursday. But after everyone was forced to play 36 holes on Sunday, **Aaron Rai** sank a six-foot birdie putt at the 18th — in near total darkness — to cinch his two-stroke victory over **Max Greyselman** in Greensboro, N.C.

The tournament, however, was not over.

Matt Kuchar, playing in the final group one behind Rai's threesome, declared that he was done playing for the day after hitting his tee shot well awry of the fairway at No. 18. At seven strokes behind Rai, he had no chance of victory and no shot of clinching a spot in the PGA Tour's 70-man playoff, which begins Thursday. Nonetheless, Kuchar told tournament officials that it was too dark for him to finish his round, even though Greyselman and **Chad Ramey**, his playing partners, continued on to finish the hole.

And so Kuchar returned to the course by himself Monday morning to wrap up his round. He received line-of-sight relief for his tee shot because it was blocked by a scoreboard and parred the hole in six minutes to finish in a tie for 12th. He made \$134,695; a bogey at the hole would have cut his winnings down to \$77,025, while a birdie would have given him \$223,833.

After finishing his round, Kuchar apologized to course and tournament officials who had to return to the course Monday morning and said he decided to stop playing Sunday evening only because of his errant tee shot.

"Nobody wants to be that guy ... the one guy that didn't finish," Kuchar said. "I can't tell you how many times I have been finished with a round thinking, bummed out that somebody didn't finish, that we didn't get to make the cut because somebody didn't finish. Here it's me now as the guy that didn't get to finish the tournament."

— Matt Bonesteel

COLLEGES

Georgia, Ohio State sit atop AP football poll

Georgia is No. 1 in the Associated Press top 25 preseason college football poll for the second straight year as the superconference era begins with the SEC and Big Ten dominating the top 10 of the rankings.

The Bulldogs received 46 first-place votes and 1,532 points in the top 25, and the SEC powerhouse finished comfortably ahead of No. 2 Ohio State (15 first-place votes and 1,490 points) of the Big Ten.

New Big Ten member Oregon is No. 3, receiving one first-place vote from the panel of 62 media members who cover college football. Texas, which joins Georgia in the SEC this season, is fourth.

The Big Ten and SEC each have four teams in the top 10.

Conference realignment has reduced the Power Five to the Power Four, with the Pac-12 whittled to just two schools. The Big Ten now has 18 schools. The ACC has 17 football teams, and the SEC and Big 12 have 16 each.

All the movement created an unprecedented preseason poll with just four conferences represented: The SEC leads with nine ranked teams. The Big Ten has six, the Big 12 has five, and the ACC has four.

Alabama, in its first season without Coach **Nick Saban** since 2006, starts No. 5. No. 6 Mississippi gives the SEC half the top preseason top six.

Independent Notre Dame is the highest ranked team from outside the SEC and Big Ten at No. 7.

No. 8 Penn State and No. 9 Michigan give the Big Ten four top 10 teams. Florida State from the ACC is No. 10.

The defending national champion Wolverines said goodbye to coach **Jim Harbaugh**, quarterback **J.J. McCarthy** and 12 other players who were selected in April's NFL draft.

All that attrition led to Michigan receiving the lowest preseason ranking for a defending national champion since 2011, when Auburn was No. 23 after the departure of **Cam Newton**.

Before that, the last time a defending national champion was ranked worse than seventh in the following preseason poll was Colorado at No. 13 in 1991.



MANAURE QUINTERO/AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE/GETTY IMAGES

Going airborne

Barcelona's Inigo Martinez jumps for the ball next to Monaco's George Ilenikhena in the 59th Joan Gamper Trophy match.

SPOTLIGHT: OLYMPICS

Chiles appeal is denied, but fight isn't over

BY EMILY GIAMBALVO

The Court of Arbitration for Sport will not reconsider its ruling that led to the revocation of Jordan Chiles's Olympic bronze medal, USA Gymnastics said Monday, a major blow to the U.S. federation's hopes of reversing the decision that pushed Chiles off the podium nearly a week after the floor final.

Chiles celebrated her third-place finish on the medal stand in Paris, but the International Olympic Committee determined Sunday, six days after the event, that Romania's Ana Barbosu will receive the bronze instead and Chiles must return her medal.

USA Gymnastics has fought back, and on Sunday the organization said it formally submitted video footage to CAS that it claims proves Chiles is the deserving third-place finisher. However, USA Gym-

nastics said in a statement Monday that, according to the court's rules, it would not reconsider its previous decision.

"We are deeply disappointed by the notification and will continue to pursue every possible avenue and appeal process, including to the Swiss Federal Tribunal, to ensure the just scoring, placement, and medal award for Jordan," USA Gymnastics said.

The controversy centers on Chiles's last-minute score change, which bumped her from fifth place to third. Chiles's coach, Cecile Landi, filed an inquiry after her score was posted. When the judges reevaluated her routine, Chiles's score increased by 0.1 points. She was the final athlete to compete, and that adjustment moved her into bronze medal position ahead of Barbosu. Chiles left the arena as the bronze medalist.

The Romanian gymnastics federation

then made an appeal to CAS, and the court ruled the inquiry that benefited Chiles had been filed after the one-minute deadline, thus rendering the decisive inquiry invalid. The court ruled Chiles's original score should be reinstated. In response, the International Gymnastics Federation (FIG) modified the results of the competition — shifting Chiles to fifth place and Barbosu to third — and the IOC confirmed the medal would be redistributed to reflect that adjustment.

USA Gymnastics has said it has video showing Landi stated her request for an inquiry 47 seconds after Chiles's score appeared. The organization noted that it did not have this footage at the time of the court's ruling and thus could not submit it as evidence. But CAS will not reopen the case, so USA Gymnastics must rely on other avenues as it continues to fight for Chiles's bronze medal.

TELEVISION AND RADIO

MLB

6:30 p.m. **Washington at Baltimore** » MASN, MASN2, WJFK (106.7 FM), WDCN (87.7 FM), WYIY (97.9 FM), WSNB (630 AM)
8 p.m. **Los Angeles Dodgers at Milwaukee** » TBS
9:30 p.m. **Pittsburgh at San Diego** » MLB Network

SOCCER

12:15 p.m. **Saudi Super Cup, semifinal: Al-Hilal vs. Al-Ahli** » Fox Sports 2
6 p.m. **Copa Libertadores, round of 16, first leg: Fluminense at Grêmio** » BeIN Sports

8 p.m. **Leagues Cup, round of 16: Tigres UANL vs. New York City FC** » Fox Sports 1

8:30 p.m. **Copa Libertadores, round of 16, first leg: Junior at Colo-Colo** » BeIN Sports

TENNIS

11 a.m. **ATP/WTA: Cincinnati Open, early rounds** » Tennis Channel

PRO BASKETBALL Sparks all-star Hamby sues the WNBA, Aces

Los Angeles Sparks all-star **Dearica Hamby** sued the WNBA and her former team in federal court regarding her treatment from the Las Vegas Aces while pregnant.

Hamby's lawsuit alleged the Aces discriminated and retaliated against her, leading to her January 2023 trade to the Sparks.

"We are aware of today's legal filing and are reviewing the complaint," a WNBA spokesperson said.

The Aces did not immediately respond to requests for comment, but the club and Coach **Becky Hammon** previously refuted the allegations. Hammon said in May 2023 that Hamby was traded for strategic reasons, namely putting the club in

position to sign likely future Hall of Famer **Candace Parker**.

"We made the decision to move Hamby because we could get three bodies in her one contract and we wanted to get three more people in," Hammon said at the time. "I think it's very evident [with] who we signed on why we made the move."

Hamby, a bronze medal winner in three-on-three women's basketball in the recently completed Olympic Games, twice previously made public claims against the Aces.

SOCCER

Man City's Alvarez joins Atlético Madrid

Argentina striker **Julian Alvarez** joined Atlético Madrid from Manchester City in a deal reportedly worth more than \$103 million, ending his trophy-laden two-year spell at the

English champions.

City Manager **Pep Guardiola** said last week that Alvarez told him he wanted to leave for a new challenge.

Alvarez left Argentine team River Plate in 2022 for 14 million pounds (now \$17.8 million) and helped City win the Premier League in both seasons he was in England, as well as the Champions League, the FA Cup and the Club World Cup.

In 103 appearances in all competitions, Alvarez scored 36 goals.

However, despite being first choice for Argentina, he was behind **Erling Haaland** in the City pecking order.

City could reportedly get up to 95 million euros (\$104 million) for the 24-year-old Alvarez.

TENNIS

Pegula again wins National Bank Open

Jessica Pegula, the No. 3 seed and the sixth-ranked WTA Tour player, defended her National Bank Open women's singles title in Toronto by defeating **Amanda Anisimova**, 6-3, 2-6, 6-1, in the all-American final.

Pegula, from nearby Buffalo, won last year's National Bank Open in Montreal and improved her record at the Canadian tennis championship to 17-2 in picking up the sixth tournament victory of her career.

Pegula is the first woman to repeat at Canada's showcase event since **Martina Hingis** in 2000.

Alexei Popyrin of Australia, who turned pro in 2017, defeated fifth-ranked **Andrey Rublev** of Russia, 6-2, 6-4, to win the National Bank Open men's singles title in Montreal.

Popyrin, who lost in the men's singles round of 16 at the Paris Olympics, had 10 aces and only three double faults against Rublev. The Australian knocked off four seeded players to win the ATP 1000 event. ...

Nuno Borges and **Magdalena Frech**, the top men's and women's seeds in the Cincinnati Open, advanced with wins in the qualifying round.

Borges, from Portugal, beat Australia's **Aleksandar Vukic**, 7-6 (7-4), 6-1, and Frech, from Poland, beat 14th-seeded **Jéssica Bouzas Maneiro** of Spain, 6-1, 6-4.

Six Americans advanced in the main draws. No. 5 seed **Alex Michelsen** of Aliso Viejo, Calif., defeated **Mackenzie McDonald** of Orlando, 6-3, 6-2; **Brandon Holt** of Rolling Hills, Calif., beat **Zachary Svajda** of San Diego, 6-4, 2-6, 6-3; and **Aleksandar Kovacevic** of New York got past Australia's **Rinky Hijikata**, 6-1, 7-6 (7-5).

In the women's draw, 12th-seeded **Taylor Townsend** of Smyrna, Ga., beat No. 4 **Katie Volynets** of Walnut Creek, Calif., 6-0, 6-3; **Robin Montgomery** of Washington defeated No. 16 **Martina Trevisan** of Italy, 6-4, 6-4; and **Ashlyn Krueger** of Springfield, Mo., edged Japan's **Naomi Osaka**, 6-3, 2-6, 6-3.

For the men, Italy's **Flavio Cobolli** beat 10th-seeded Tommy Paul of Boca Raton, Fla., 6-2, 4-6, 7-5. No. 3 **Yoshihito Nishioka** of Japan and No. 11 **Corentin Moutet** of France also advanced. For the women, No. 15 **Harriet Dart** of Britain defeated No. 5 **Elna Avanesyan** of Armenia, 6-4, 6-1. No. 3 **Lulu Sun** of Australia, No. 10 **Varvara Gracheva** and No. 13 **Y.F. Wang** of China also advanced.

CYCLING

Kool claims first stage of the women's Tour

Dutch rider **Charlotte Kool** won a mass sprint on home soil in the opening stage of the women's Tour de France.

Kool, of the DSM-Firmenich PostNL team, will start Tuesday's second stage in the leader's yellow jersey after completing the 123 kilometers (76-mile) stage in 2 hours 47 minutes 40 seconds.

"It's very special that everything fell into place," she told Dutch broadcaster NOS.

"This is the day I was hoping for." **Anniina Ahtosalo** of Finland was second and **Elisa Balsamo** of Italy finished third in the same time as Kool.

Last year's race winner **Demi Vollering** of the SD Worx team finished back in 35th spot, three places ahead of Olympic road race champion **Kristen Faulkner**. Both riders also registered the same time as Kool.

Vollering's teammate **Lorena Wiebes** had been one of the favorites to win a sprint finish, but her bike's chain fell off within sight of the end and she dropped out of contention.

— From news services and staff reports

Coleman is the lone bright spot at tackle

COMMANDERS FROM D1

any work against another opponent because of a shoulder/pectoral injury that sidelined Coleman against the Jets, he has impressed with his ability to play both right and left tackle. It's no surprise the rookie tops the unofficial depth chart at left tackle.

"Anything we ask Brandon to do, he's shown up and he's tried it," offensive coordinator Kliff Kingsbury said. "A lot of times with young rookies, they're used to a certain technique that may not be able to work at this level, and so you got to adjust it. And he's tried to do it exactly how we've coached, and he's a tremendous athlete and works his tail off."

Wide receiver Dyami Brown: Brown, like many of the other holdovers from the previous coaching staff, had plenty to prove. He doesn't have the body of work of Terry McLaurin and wasn't a first-round pick like Jahan Dotson. His highlight in Washington really has just been his two-touchdown game against the Tennessee Titans in 2022.

But Brown has shown speed and deep-threat ability repeatedly, making his 42-yard catch against the Jets a mere exclamation point on a great camp. His connection with Daniels appears to be strong, too, a development Brown attributes, in part, to their work in the offseason at the University of Oregon.

Defensive back Mike Sainristil: The Commanders thought they got a steal in Sainristil when they drafted him in the second round with the 50th pick. Although he had just two years of experience at defensive back at Michigan, he plays more like a veteran, with a clear command of defensive coordinator Joe Whitt Jr.'s system and an aggressiveness befitting of a team coached by Dan Quinn. Sainristil will be the starting nickelback, playing inside when the team uses five defensive backs, but his role and ability are more expansive. He can play safety, he can blitz, he can drop in the box, and he can play outside at cornerback.

Disappointments

Offensive line: The battered unit has not even reached its low expectations. Only two starters, center and left guard, haven't missed time, and injuries have hit the already thin tackle group hard. The offensive line requires cohesion — especially if the unit is at a talent deficit — and Quinn acknowledged it's fair to question whether injuries have prevented the unit from jelling.

He pointed out Monday the return of right tackle Andrew Wylie from a vague "tightness" injury would help the communication. "To have Wylie back into



Kliff Kingsbury said of Brandon Coleman, above, "He's a tremendous athlete and works his tail off."

the process here this week — that's a big deal," Quinn said.

Wide receiver Jahan Dotson: Dotson has started slow while trying to rebound from a sophomore slump. He led skill players in snaps against the Jets (32) and didn't impress with his three targets, catching one screen, bobbling one ball and falling down on a vertical route.

Cornerback Emmanuel Forbes Jr.: Though he has taken most of the starter reps and though he has had good battles with McLaurin, the 2023 first-round pick doesn't seem to have made significant progress from his disastrous rookie season. His future with the club is in question.

Strongest group

The box: The additions of Frankie Luvu and Bobby Wagner give the linebacking corps an instant upgrade. Coupled with a defensive line that still features Daron Payne and Jonathan Allen inside and potential hybrid defensive backs such as Jeremy Chinn and Sainristil, Washington's defense is now loaded with speed and playmakers in the middle of the field.

Weakest group

Offensive tackles: Can't overstate the concerns with the top four tackles. Coleman (pectoral/shoulder) is a rookie; Wylie was uneven last season; swing tackle Cornelius Lucas is 33, and while he excels as a pass blocker, his limited mobility shows up in the running and screen games; and depth tackle Trent Scott has struggled in all facets with his increased reps.

Positional battles to watch

Final wide receiver spots: McLaurin, Dotson, Brown and Luke McCaffrey seem sure to make the roster, potentially leaving a couple of spots up for grabs among eight options (maybe nine if the Commanders sign Martavis Bryant, who will work out with the team Tuesday, according to a person with knowledge of the tryout). One of those spots could be determined by special teams ability.

Safety depth: The Commanders have a lot of versatile players in the secondary, and finding room for all of them will be impossible. The list of those vying to join Chinn and Quan Martin in the safeties room: Darrick Forrest, Jeremy Reaves, Percy Butler, Tyler Owens, Dominique Hampton and Ben Nikkel. Special teams will be key here, too.

Kicker: If anything is clear, it is that the Commanders' kicker to start Week 1 isn't on the roster. Ramiz Ahmed and Riley Patterson have struggled in every outing, missing short and long kicks. The team may keep both until rosters are pared and they have more options on the waiver wire. (Washington is No. 2 in the claiming order.)

Don't sleep on ...

Linebacker Jordan Magee, wide receiver Brycen Tremayne and safety Tyler Owens: These three young players could be part of the future.

Magee, a fifth-round choice whom an executive called "the ultimate organizational pick," has taken first-team reps in three-linebacker sets. (He hurt his knee

against the Jets and will be out at least a week, Quinn said.)

Tremayne and Owens, undrafted free agents fighting for spots, have repeatedly made plays in camp. Tremayne, who is 6-foot-4, has been a valuable target down the field, and Owens, an athletic safety, made a tremendous special teams tackle against the Jets.

Lingering questions

Does Daniels have enough help? The offensive line has concerns with its starting tackles and depth. The receiving corps lacks a bigger target. And the tight end play could be dependent on Zach Ertz's health, which has been troubling in recent seasons.

How many Ron Rivera draft picks make the 53-man roster? The list of holdovers likely to make the roster dwindles as camp progresses. The entire draft class of 2020 is already gone. At this point, only about seven Rivera picks — Sam Cosmi, Benjamin St-Juste, Brown, John Bates, Dotson, Brian Robinson Jr. and Martin — over the past three years seem likely to be here when the roster is formed. Others, including 2021 first-round pick Jamin Davis, are on the bubble.

Who will handle kickoff returns? The Commanders are still experimenting. They used a rotation of wide receivers — Davion Davis, Kazmeir Allen and Byron Pringle — in the preseason opener, but cornerback Noah Igbinoghene sits atop the depth chart at kickoff returner, and the team has tried many others during camp.

NFL NOTES

Jets say they won't grant Reddick's trade request

FROM NEWS SERVICES AND STAFF REPORTS

In an apparent escalation of their contract standoff with veteran pass rusher Haason Reddick, the New York Jets used a public statement Monday to confirm reports that he asked for a trade — and to say it was not on the table.

"We have informed Haason that we will not trade him," Jets General Manager Joe Douglas said in the team's statement, "that he is expected to be here with his teammates, and that he will continue to be fined per the CBA [the NFL's collective bargaining agreement] if he does not report."

Reddick, who is entering the final, non-guaranteed year of a three-year, \$45 million contract he signed with the Philadelphia Eagles, was acquired by the Jets in March via trade. Apart from an introductory media session shortly after that transaction, Reddick has stayed away from his new team through offseason workout programs, a mandatory minicamp and 21 days thus far of training camp.

The training camp absence has cost Reddick \$1.05 million in automatic fines that, per the CBA, can't be rescinded by the Jets even if the two sides come to terms on a new contract. Reddick also forfeited a \$250,000 bonus by missing the voluntary workouts and could be docked an additional \$300,000 in fines, per reports, at the Jets' discretion.

Reddick, who turns 30 next month, was set to make \$14.25 million in base salary this season. It is unclear what exactly was conveyed to New York by Reddick's camp at the time of the trade. According to multiple reports, the Jets made the move with the understanding that Reddick was willing to play under his existing contract, which they signaled could be addressed in various ways — such as possibly converting some or all of his 2024 salary into guaranteed money — as long as he committed to being a part of the team this year.

"Since the trade discussions back in March we have been clear, direct and consistent in our position," Douglas said Monday. "Our focus remains on the guys we have here as we prepare for the regular season."

Neither Reddick nor his representatives offered public comments Monday.

— Deshaun Watson

• CHIEFS: Coach Andy Reid said wide receiver Marquise "Hollywood" Brown did not need surgery for the shoulder injury he suffered in the team's preseason opener against the Jacksonville Jaguars.

Brown spent Saturday night in a Jacksonville hospital before being released Sunday morning and was not at Monday's practice.

"They were able to get the joint back in place without surgery, which is a positive," Reid said. "We'll just see on the recovery. He's back in Kansas City now. He stayed over in Jacksonville until they got that thing situated."

Reid said after Saturday's game that Brown suffered a sterno-clavicular posterior dislocation.

• 49ERS: Defensive tackle Kalia Davis will need to have surgery on his knee after getting hurt in the exhibition opener in the latest injury to hit San Francisco.

The 49ers were missing more than a dozen players because of injuries, leading Coach Kyle Shanahan to cancel a planned joint practice this week against the New Orleans Saints.

• VIKINGS: Rookie quarterback J.J. McCarthy reported soreness in his right knee and was held out of practice to undergo further examination.

Coach Kevin O'Connell said Minnesota didn't have reason to believe McCarthy was experiencing any problem beyond routine soreness. But O'Connell said he wasn't sure whether McCarthy would travel this week for joint practices with Cleveland on Wednesday and Thursday and the preseason game against the Browns on Saturday.

• GIANTS: Rookie wide receiver Malik Nabers is going to be given all the time he needs to get over his left ankle sprain.

Nabers, the No. 6 pick in the draft, twisted his ankle while running a route in practice Sunday. He did not practice Monday.

Coach Brian Daboll said Nabers, who has been a star of training camp, was sore but he did not think the wideout fractured his ankle.

• BROWNS: Deshaun Watson's next start is penciled in.

The Cleveland quarterback, who hasn't played in a game since he broke his shoulder in November against the Baltimore Ravens, is scheduled to play in the Browns' preseason finale Aug. 24 at the Seattle Seahawks.

Coach Kevin Stefanski revealed his plans for Watson before practice. Watson also will get in work during controlled practice sessions against Minnesota.

• BILLS: Buffalo filled its need for a third-string quarterback by signing Ben DiNucci, the player's agency, J.L. Sports, announced on social media.

• LIONS: Detroit signed quarterback Jake Fromm, adding depth at a position that took a hit when Hendon Hooker suffered a concussion.

Nationals defensive whiz Young is building a Gold Glove case in center field

NATIONALS FROM D1

"His line is like 'this big.' And the guys [on the other team]?" he asked before pausing again, the gap between his fingers shrinking until they were almost together. "It's just crazy. And that's the testament to his jumps and his speed and his athleticism."

There are cold, unfeeling numbers that explain the feelings that Finnegan is attempting to convey. Young leads MLB in multiple major defensive benchmarks, including outs above average (18) and runs prevented (16). But what makes Young special is his reaction time.

Baseball Savant tracks reaction time, which helps gauge how far a player runs in the first 1.5 seconds after the ball leaves the bat. Young covers 4.6 more feet than the average outfielder. No one else is particularly close. No. 2 on the list is New York Yankees outfielder Trent Grisham, who comes in at 2.5 feet. Since 2016, only Kiké Hernández in 2021 and 2022 has outclassed the average outfielder by at least 3.5 feet in a full season.

Could an outfielder feasibly reach that mark through willpower alone? It lies more in preparation than, say, raw speed (also a strength of Young's). When asked that very question — why every player doesn't get the jumps he does — he hazards a guess and arrives at the crux.

"A lot of times with outfielders — and on defense in general — you kind of just don't want to mess it up," Young said. "You'd rather just make sure you're going to make the catch instead of maybe trying to go get the ones you're not supposed to and trying to get a jump like that."

The Nationals' philosophy with their outfielders: "Try to make the plays that maybe you shouldn't be making," Young said.

Young prepares for those impossibilities like few others.

Before games, he makes his calculations. Every day the Nationals have batting practice, he tracks every type of ball he might see. He might also pick up differences in the ballparks across the game. Colorado was an obvious example — the ball takes a different route in thin air. In Milwaukee, he found that the roof suppressed sound. Because he often uses the thwack off the bat to gauge a ball's distance — and because he knew American Family Field was deceptively quiet — he boosted forward for a diving catch rather than allowing the ball to skip before him.

Before pitches, as he gets into a low stance, he plans for another contingency. If catcher Keibert Ruiz, for instance, sets up his glove to the outside — a pitch that say, based on a certain count, Young thinks is going to be a slider — his first step will go in the direction of an opposite-field hit, regardless of where the ball actually ends up going.

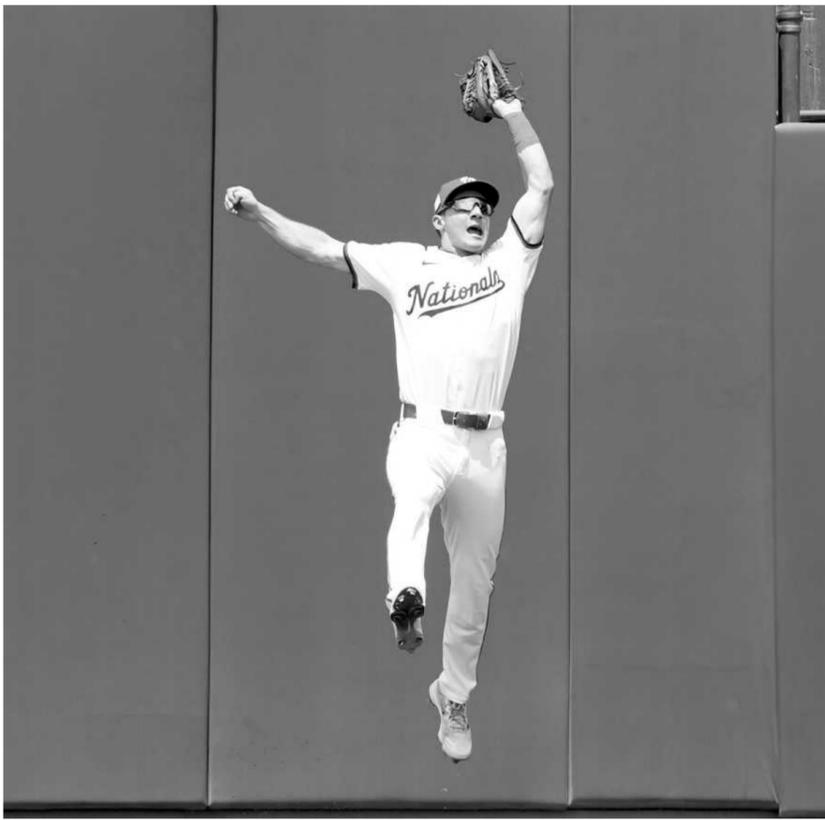
And if he seems frenetic, planning for all of these contingencies?

"I've never been able to sit still," Young said with a chuckle.

Said Manager Dave Martinez: "As a center fielder myself growing up, it's not a guess. It's knowing how to read the swings, how to read where the balls are. It's anticipation more than anything. He does really well. And he's spot-on."

Young arrived in the organization at the right time for that manic thought process. When he needed to work on his course-correction and short and quick movements, the minor league defensive coordinator was Coco Crisp. Those were his specialties.

Young's arrival as a full-time starter coincided with the arrival



Jacob Young's reaction time as a full-time center fielder is helping his case to earn a Gold Glove.

of first base coach Gerardo Parra, who works with the outfielders. Parra prioritized quick reactions. Young never lost his spot in the outfield.

Most metrics back up modern baseball's general line of thinking defensively: Fast jumps are more important than precise routes. Young, as it just so happens, is the

exact case study for that thought process: He takes the least direct routes in baseball.

In the years before his jumps were among the game's best, Young found himself getting stuck flat-footed. Sometimes, he would think he had the correct route, but the topspin or backspin would leave him a few steps

behind. Now, even if the route is imprecise, he feels he's making up for it with his jump. As long as he's moving somewhere toward the ball, he can catch up.

"You can look really smart sometimes, especially if you guess right," Young said. "And it's just something where I'm trying to get moving, [because then] I'm able

to have a quick correction if it is the wrong direction."

Rather miraculously, this is Young's first season as a set-it-and-forget-it center fielder. That, in and of itself, is a boon to Young. He can get a better read off the bat because he doesn't have to worry about the strange manner with which the ball tails in the corner outfield spots and he has a clear view of the catcher's glove. He has the most ground to cover and is one of the game's fastest players.

"Off the bat, it looks like it's in the gap, and he catches it standing up," Finnegan said. "We talk about it a few times a week, how thankful we are that he's out there. I think metrically, he's one of the best center fielders in the league, if not the best center fielder in the league. And he shows it."

"Right now, he's a Gold Glove to me," Martinez said. "This guy goes and gets everything."

BASEBALL

National League

Table with columns: EAST, W, L, PCT, GB, L10 STR. Rows include Philadelphia, x-Atlanta, New York, Washington, Miami.

Table with columns: CENTRAL, W, L, PCT, GB, L10 STR. Rows include Milwaukee, St. Louis, Chicago, Cincinnati, x-Pittsburgh.

Table with columns: WEST, W, L, PCT, GB, L10 STR. Rows include Los Angeles, x-Arizona, x-San Diego, x-San Francisco, x-Colorado.

American League

Table with columns: EAST, W, L, PCT, GB, L10 STR. Rows include Baltimore, New York, Boston, Tampa Bay, x-Toronto.

Table with columns: CENTRAL, W, L, PCT, GB, L10 STR. Rows include Cleveland, Minnesota, Kansas City, Detroit, Chicago.

Table with columns: WEST, W, L, PCT, GB, L10 STR. Rows include Houston, Seattle, Texas, x-Los Angeles, Oakland.

x-Late game

x-Late game

NATIONALS' LEADERS

Table with columns: Batters, Avg, H, 2B, HR, RBI, BB. Lists top performers like Call, Tena, Yepez, Garcia, Nunez, Wood, Winker, Vargas, Thomas, Young, Abrams, Ramirez, Adams, Meneses, Ruiz, Senzel, Lipscomb, Rosario, Millas, Gallo, Robles, Blankenhorn, and Pitches.

NL leaders

Table with columns: Batters, Avg, H, 2B, HR, RBI, BB. Lists top performers like Arraez, Ozuna, Marte, Ohtani, Profar, Bohm, Garcia, Merrill, and Home Runs.

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NL leaders

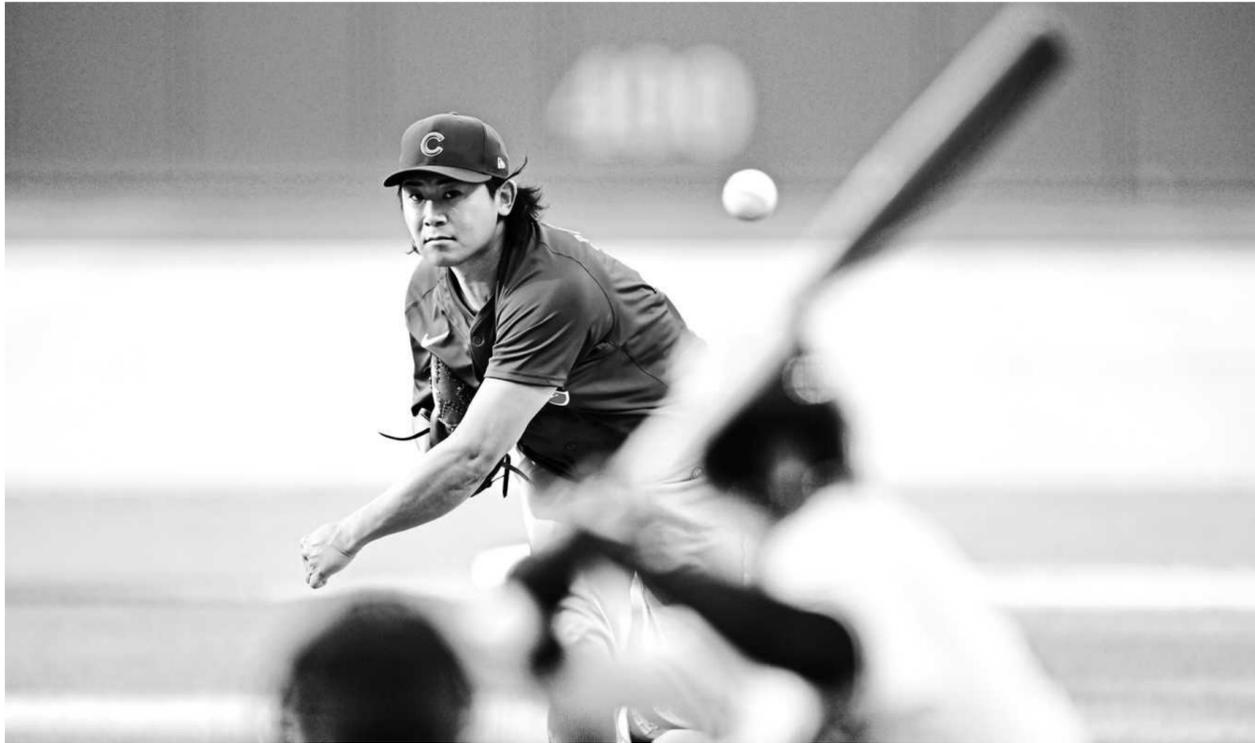
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JASON MILLER/GETTY IMAGES

Here's your delivery

Cubs starter Shota Imanaga pitches to the Guardians' Steven Kwan in the first inning Monday night. Kwan later homered in a wild game won by Cleveland, 9-8.

Reds 6, Cardinals 1

Spencer Steer homered in consecutive at-bats and drove in five runs and Elly De La Cruz hit his team-leading 21st homer for Cincinnati. Steer and De La Cruz homered on successive pitches from Sonny Gray to put the Reds ahead 3-1 in the third.

Gray struck out nine in five innings but is winless in three career starts against his former club.

Table with columns: CARDINALS, AB, R, H, BI, BBSO, AVG. Lists stats for players like Winn, Contreras, Pham, Diaz, Arenado, Goldschmidt, Donavon, Walker, Pagan, Nootbaar, Scott.

Table with columns: REDS, AB, R, H, BI, BBSO, AVG. Lists stats for players like Steer, Stephen, Friedl, Candelario, France, Fraloy, Marte, Benson.

Table with columns: ST. LOUIS, CIN, CINCINNATI. Lists scores and game details.

Table with columns: CARDINALS, IP, H, R, ER, BBSO, ERA. Lists pitching stats for players like Gray, Leary, Armstrong.

Table with columns: REDS, IP, H, R, ER, BBSO, ERA. Lists pitching stats for players like Abbott, Busch, Sulser.

Table with columns: WP, Inherited runners-scored. Lists game details.

Table with columns: WHITE SOX, AB, R, H, BI, BBSO, AVG. Lists stats for players like Verduge, Soto, Judge, Stanton, Wells, Lee, Torres, Jolly, Rice, Volpe, LeMahieu.

Table with columns: WHITE SOX, IP, H, R, ER, BBSO, ERA. Lists pitching stats for players like Toussaint, Sheets, Fletcher, Lovelady, Sulser.

Table with columns: NEW YORK, CLEVELAND. Lists scores and game details.

Table with columns: WHITE SOX, IP, H, R, ER, BBSO, ERA. Lists pitching stats for players like Toussaint, Sheets, Fletcher, Lovelady, Sulser.

Astros 6, Rays 1

Framber Valdez followed up his no-hit bid with 5 2/3 strong innings, Alex Bregman and Yainer Diaz homered, and Houston defeated Tampa Bay for its sixth straight win.

Valdez, who came within one out of his second career no-hitter in his previous start at Texas on Aug. 6, allowed one run on three hits and struck out nine.

Table with columns: ASTROS, AB, R, H, BI, BBSO, AVG. Lists stats for players like Altuve, Bregman, Alvarez, Diaz, Peña, Goldschmidt, Donavon, Walker, Meyers, McCormick, Leon.

Table with columns: RAYS, AB, R, H, BI, BBSO, AVG. Lists stats for players like Caballero, Carlson, Diaz, Misner, Morel, DeLuca, Sirt, Mead, Walls, Jackson.

Table with columns: HOUSTON, TAMPA BAY. Lists scores and game details.

Table with columns: ASTROS, IP, H, R, ER, BBSO, ERA. Lists pitching stats for players like Valdez, Scott, Ort.

Table with columns: RAYS, IP, H, R, ER, BBSO, ERA. Lists pitching stats for players like Bradley, Kelly, Lovelady, Sulser.

Table with columns: WP, Inherited runners-scored. Lists game details.

Table with columns: WHITE SOX, AB, R, H, BI, BBSO, AVG. Lists stats for players like Verduge, Soto, Judge, Stanton, Wells, Lee, Torres, Jolly, Rice, Volpe, LeMahieu.

Table with columns: WHITE SOX, IP, H, R, ER, BBSO, ERA. Lists pitching stats for players like Toussaint, Sheets, Fletcher, Lovelady, Sulser.

Table with columns: NEW YORK, CLEVELAND. Lists scores and game details.

Table with columns: WHITE SOX, IP, H, R, ER, BBSO, ERA. Lists pitching stats for players like Toussaint, Sheets, Fletcher, Lovelady, Sulser.

Guardians 9, Cubs 8

Josh Naylor drove in José Ramírez with the go-ahead run in the eighth inning, and Cleveland held on to beat Chicago.

Table with columns: CUBS, AB, R, H, BI, BBSO, AVG. Lists stats for players like Happ, Busch, Wisdom, Suzuki, Bellinger, Paredes, Hoerner, Swanson, Crow-Armstrong, Amaya, Tauchman, Leon.

Table with columns: GUARDIANS, AB, R, H, BI, BBSO, AVG. Lists stats for players like Naylor, Thomas, Ramirez, Fry, Brennan, Naylor, Noel, Gimenez, Freeman, Rodriguez, Hedges, Scott.

Table with columns: CLEVELAND, HOUSTON. Lists scores and game details.

Table with columns: CUBS, IP, H, R, ER, BBSO, ERA. Lists pitching stats for players like Imanaga, Pearson, Merryweather, Lopez.

Table with columns: GUARDIANS, IP, H, R, ER, BBSO, ERA. Lists pitching stats for players like Lively, Avila, Herrin, Barlow, Strzelecki, Sandlin, Clase.

Table with columns: WP, Inherited runners-scored. Lists game details.

Table with columns: CLEVELAND, HOUSTON. Lists scores and game details.

Table with columns: GUARDIANS, IP, H, R, ER, BBSO, ERA. Lists pitching stats for players like Sandlin, Strzelecki, Barlow, Bellinger.

Table with columns: CLEVELAND, HOUSTON. Lists scores and game details.

Table with columns: GUARDIANS, IP, H, R, ER, BBSO, ERA. Lists pitching stats for players like Sandlin, Strzelecki, Barlow, Bellinger.

Table with columns: CLEVELAND, HOUSTON. Lists scores and game details.

Twins 8, Royals 3

Willi Castro had a three-run home run and Royce Lewis hit a two-run shot in a six-run second inning for Minnesota in a victory over Kansas City to open a key series between the division rivals and close wild-card competitors.

The Twins improved to 6-2 against the Royals this season.

Table with columns: ROYALS, AB, R, H, BI, BBSO, AVG. Lists stats for players like Mascay, Witt, Pasquino, Perez, Farmin, Melendez, Renfro, Frazier, Garcia, Isbel, Leon.

Table with columns: TWINS, AB, R, H, BI, BBSO, AVG. Lists stats for players like Castro, Larnach, Farmer, Walker, Buxton, Margot, Kepler, Santana, Jeffers, Martin, Sisco.

Table with columns: KANSAS CITY, MINNESOTA. Lists scores and game details.

Table with columns: ROYALS, IP, H, R, ER, BBSO, ERA. Lists pitching stats for players like Witt, Hernandez, Zerpa.

Table with columns: TWINS, IP, H, R, ER, BBSO, ERA. Lists pitching stats for players like Lopez, Jack, Richards, Blawie.

Table with columns: WP, Inherited runners-scored. Lists game details.

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Table with columns: TWINS, IP, H, R, ER, BBSO, ERA. Lists pitching stats for players like Lopez, Jack, Richards, Blawie.

Table with columns: KANSAS CITY, MINNESOTA. Lists scores and game details.

Dodgers 5, Brewers 2

Mookie Betts homered and drove in three runs in his return from a broken left hand, Shohei Ohtani also went deep, and Los Angeles defeated Milwaukee.

Clayton Kershaw struck out six in his first win this season, allowing one run over 5 2/3 innings as the Dodgers took the opener of a four-game series.

Table with columns: DODGERS, AB, R, H, BI, BBSO, AVG. Lists stats for players like Ohtani, Betts, Freeman, T.Hernandez, Lux, Smith, Abreu, Rojas, K.Hernandez, Kiermaier.

Table with columns: BREWERS, AB, R, H, BI, BBSO, AVG. Lists stats for players like Turang, Chourio, Mitchell, Bauers, Contreras, Adams, Sanchez, Hoskins, Frelick, Ortiz.

Table with columns: KANSAS CITY, MINNESOTA. Lists scores and game details.

Table with columns: BREWERS, IP, H, R, ER, BBSO, ERA. Lists pitching stats for players like Kershaw, Kelly, Vesia, Kopech, Hudson.

Table with columns: BREWERS, IP, H, R, ER, BBSO, ERA. Lists pitching stats for players like Peralta, Hudson, Kershaw.

Table with columns: WP, Inherited runners-scored. Lists game details.

Table with columns: KANSAS CITY, MINNESOTA. Lists scores and game details.

Table with columns: BREWERS, IP, H, R, ER, BBSO, ERA. Lists pitching stats for players like Kershaw, Kelly, Vesia, Kopech, Hudson.

Table with columns: BREWERS, IP, H, R, ER, BBSO, ERA. Lists pitching stats for players like Peralta, Hudson, Kershaw.

Table with columns: KANSAS CITY, MINNESOTA. Lists scores and game details.

Red Sox 5, Rangers 4 (10)

Rob Refsnyder's single in the 10th inning scored Ceddanne Rafaela to snap Boston's four-game skid.

Table with columns: RANGERS, AB, R, H, BI, BBSO, AVG. Lists stats for players like Semien, Seager, J.Smith, A.Garcia, Lowe, Jung, Langford, Helm, Taveras.

Table with columns: RED SOX, AB, R, H, BI, BBSO, AVG. Lists stats for players like Hamilton, Gassler, Yoshida, Refsnyder, Devers, Wong, Abreu, Rojas, Gonzalez, D.Smith, Valdez, Rafaela.

Table with columns: TEXAS, BOSTON. Lists scores and game details.

Table with columns: RANGERS, IP, H, R, ER, BBSO, ERA. Lists pitching stats for players like Mahle, Chafin, Festa, Robertson, Yates, Garabito, Pennington.

Table with columns: RED SOX, IP, H, R, ER, BBSO, ERA. Lists pitching stats for players like Bello, Kelly, Horn, Martin, J.Jansen, Wincowski.

Table with columns: WP, Inherited runners-scored. Lists game details.

Table with columns: KANSAS CITY, MINNESOTA. Lists scores and game details.

Table with columns: RANGERS, IP, H, R, ER, BBSO, ERA. Lists pitching stats for players like Peralta, Hudson, Kershaw.

Table with columns: RED SOX, IP, H, R, ER, BBSO, ERA. Lists pitching stats for players like Kershaw, Kelly, Vesia, Kopech, Hudson.

Table with columns: RED SOX, IP, H, R, ER, BBSO, ERA. Lists pitching stats for players like Peralta, Hudson, Kershaw.

Table with columns: KANSAS CITY, MINNESOTA. Lists scores and game details.

NOTES

PERSONNEL DEPT. Astros: RHP Justin Verlander, out two months with neck stiffness, will make his second minor league rehab start this week and could rejoin the rotation after that.

Dodgers: Activated OF Mookie Betts after the eight-time all-star missed nearly two months with a broken left hand and designated IF-OF Amed Rosario for assignment.

Mariners: Reached agreement with OF Victor Robles on a two-year contract extension worth \$9.75 million. The former National is hitting .303 with seven doubles and three homers in 42 games since joining Seattle.

Rays: RHP Ryan Pepiot could return to the rotation this week after being hospitalized last month for a knee infection believed to be the result of a spider bite during the all-star break.

Red Sox: Placed LHP James Paxton (strained calf) on the 15-day disabled list.

TODAY

Interleague games

Table with columns: NATIONALS AT ORIOLES, 6:35. Lists games like Irvin (R) vs Orioles, Rogers (L) vs Orioles, Cubs at Guardians, 6:40, Assad (R) vs Guardians, 6:40, TBD, Athletics at Mets, 7:10, Stripling (R) vs Mets, 7:10, Blackburn (R) vs Mets, 7:10.

Interleague scores

Table with columns: SUNDAY'S RESULTS. Lists scores like L.A. Angels 6, at Washington 4, Detroit 5, at San Francisco 4, at Seattle 12, N.Y. Mets 1.

MONDAY'S RESULT

Table with columns: at Cleveland 9, Chicago Cubs 8.

NL games

Table with columns: MARLINS AT PHILLIES, 6:40. Lists scores like Bellozo (R) vs Phillies, 1-1, Phillips (R) vs Phillies, 4-1, Cardinals at Reds, 6:40, Fedde (R) vs Reds, 8-5, Greene (R) vs Reds, 8-4, Dodgers at Brewers, 8:20, Stone (R) vs Brewers, 9-5, Montas (R) vs Brewers, 5-8, Rockies at Diamondbacks, 9:40, Gombler (L) vs Diamondbacks, 3-8, Rodriguez (L) vs Diamondbacks, 1-0, Pirates at Padres, 9:40, Ortiz (R) vs Padres, 5-2, King (R) vs Padres, 9-6.

NL scores

Table with columns: SUNDAY'S RESULTS. Lists scores like at Miami 7, San Diego 6, Cincinnati 4, at Milwaukee 3, at Colorado 9, Atlanta 8, at Arizona 12, Philadelphia 5, at L.A. Dodgers 6, Pittsburgh 5 (10), Monday's Results, Braves at Giants, 9:45, Horton (R) vs Giants, 6-5.

AL games

Table with columns: MARINERS AT TIGERS, 6:40. Lists scores like Kirby (R) vs Tigers, 8-8, Skubal (L) vs Tigers, 13-4, Astros at Rays, 6:50, Kikuchi (L) vs Rays, 5-9, Crawford (R) vs Rays, 3-7, Royals at Twins, 7:40, Lugo (R) vs Twins, 13-6, Yankees at White Sox, 8:10, Cortes (L) vs White Sox, 8-8, Cannon (R) vs White Sox, 2-5, Blue Jays at Angels, 9:38, Gausman (R) vs Angels, 10-8, Fulmer (R) vs Angels, 0-2.

AL scores

Table with columns: SUNDAY'S RESULTS. Lists scores like at Tampa Bay 1, Oakland 8, at Toronto 4, Houston 10, at Boston 2, at N.Y. Yankees 8, Texas 7, Cleveland 5, at Minnesota 3, Monday's Results, Houston 6, at Tampa Bay 1, at Minnesota 8, Kansas City 3, at Boston 5, Texas 4 (10), at Chicago White Sox 12, N.Y. Yankees 2, Toronto 4, L.A. Angels, late.

Advertisement for The Washington Post app. Features a smartphone displaying the app interface with text: 'The Washington Post Experience next level storytelling. Streamlined navigation. Immersive graphics. Enhanced features.' Includes a QR code and the text 'Scan the QR code to explore the app'.

SQ4317

Duran suspended for homophobic slur

Red Sox all-star to miss two games after incident with a heckler

BY CHELSEA JANES

BOSTON — The Boston Red Sox announced Monday that they suspended outfielder Jarren Duran for two games without pay for directing a homophobic slur at a heckler during Sunday's game. The Red Sox said they decided on the suspension in consultation with Major League Baseball; it will begin with their game against the Texas Rangers on Monday night.

The incident occurred during Sunday's 10-2 loss to the Houston Astros, when television microphones picked up a fan behind home plate heckling Duran. Between pitches, the 27-year-old turned his head toward the fan and told him to shut up before directing a slur his way. TV microphones picked up his retort, which aired on the NESN broadcast. Duran and the team apologized in a statement Sunday night, with Duran lamenting his use of "a truly horrific word."

Duran appeared sullen as he addressed reporters Monday afternoon and explained that he

had heard from Red Sox fans on social media who were disappointed to hear their team's rising star use a word that is so disparaging to the LGBTQ+ community. "I just want to let them know that I'm sorry for my actions and that I'm going to work on being better," said Duran, who will be eligible to return for Wednesday's series finale against the Rangers. Duran is having the best season of his four-year MLB career, hitting .291 with an .853 OPS for a Boston team that has overachieved by almost every measure. He was the MVP of last month's All-Star Game.

As reporters gathered around him Monday, key members of the organization did, too. Reliever Liam Hendriks looked on from a chair at his locker. Red Sox President Sam Kennedy and Chief Baseball Officer Craig Breslow lingered a few feet behind the scrum of reporters as Duran apologized. "It was just a heckler heckling me the entire game. I just let the moment get the best of me. I just said something I shouldn't have said," said Duran, who added that he apologized to Astros catcher Yainer Diaz and home plate umpire Jordan Baker afterward. "There was no intent behind the word that was used," said Duran, who told reporters he has not used it before. "It was just the

heat of the moment. It just happened to be said. It's on me for that word coming out."

The length of Duran's suspension matches precedent for incidents such as these. When then-Oakland Athletics outfielder Matt Joyce used an anti-gay slur toward a fan in 2017, he also received a two-game ban. Then-Toronto Blue Jays outfielder Kevin Pillar received the same punishment when he directed a homophobic slur at Atlanta Braves pitcher Jason Motte that same season. But those incidents are not as isolated as they seem: Homophobic slurs are not unheard of in MLB clubhouses when microphones and cameras are not around. Despite increased efforts to educate players about diversity — efforts led for much of the past decade by former player Billy Bean, who left many in the industry devastated when he died at 60 last week — MLB has yet to have an openly gay active player.

"[MLB] is very inclusive. I don't think my actions should represent what the team and MLB represent," Duran said. "It was just a bad moment on my part. I'm owning up to it and apologizing for it. But there was no intent to harm anyone or any organization in any way. It was just a dumb mistake on my part that I'm going to learn from."



NICK WASS/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nationals outfielder James Wood, 21, plays with ease, "but he's getting after it," Dave Martinez said.

KEVIN B. BLACKSTONE

In Wood, don't mistake cool for blasé

BLACKSTONE FROM D1

choreography. His aim led Ruiz to sweep his mitt across the inside of the plate right into Contreras's chest. *Out!*

Yet Wood's expression, as he jogged back to the dugout receiving congratulatory glove slaps and fist bumps from teammates, showed no trace of what is always one of the most rousing plays in baseball — throwing out a runner at home plate.

If there is something else we've learned about the 21-year-old Olney native who is the cornerstone of the Nationals' rebuild, other than he can lace about any pitch with his bat, it is that Wood is cool. Chill, man. I mean, he's that kind of cool my favorite poet, Haki Madhubuti, once wrote about: "cool-cool ultracool ... ice box cool ... air conditioned cool ... so cool him nick-named refrigerator."

I'm not about to pin a kitchen appliance on Wood as his sobriquet. Not cool. His social media handle is fine. It isn't only accidentally apropos of his talent, JWood, but it's very Gen Z or Gen Alpha. First initial, last name. Cool. Hip hop-gene oriented. You know, J Dilla, J. Cole.

Wood is, however, the leader of the pack of the coolest, youngest new Nationals who are the core of the future, though he may not demonstrably exhibit it. Ruiz, CJ Abrams, no periods. Luis Garcia Jr. DJ Herz, no periods. Jacob Young. MacKenzie Gore. Trey Lipscomb. All no more than 26 years old.

Wood isn't the birth of the cool, to borrow from Miles Davis's legendary album, for the Nationals. The arrival Friday of the Los Angeles Angels for a weekend series was a reminder of their third baseman, the mustachioed and goateed Anthony Rendon, who was as responsible for this franchise's 2019 World Series championship as Stephen Strasburg. He only

homered for the Nationals in Games 6 and 7 and led the team with eight World Series RBI. Yet he rarely displayed any histrionics that suggested the heroics stirred him. In fact, he revealed not long ago, his demeanor wasn't an act. "It's never been a top priority for me," Rendon said of playing baseball on a podcast in February. "This is a job. I do this to make a living. My faith, my family come first before this job. So if those things come before it, I'm leaving."

It wasn't the first time Rendon, who remains one of my favorite players here, expressed an emotional detachment from the game we root for him to play, even if we expect him to wear his emotion across his chest like Bryce Harper or Juan Soto. But it never bothered Dave Martinez. "He played hard every day," Washington's manager said over the weekend. "He didn't say much. But I knew what I was going to get from him. I always try to get to know the person before the player."

Rendon's levelheaded view of sports is one that most of us prefer not be admitted by those for whom we cheer. We want them to be as outwardly passionate as us. And when they are not, like Rendon and now Wood, the danger is that we confuse their dispassionate demeanor as evidence they couldn't care less. Even their teammates sometimes find frustration with what appears to be a blasé approach. Nationals pitcher Jacob Barnes, a 34-year-old veteran of nine major league seasons, seemed upset a few games after Wood's debut when the outfielder didn't get to a ball hit his way with the urgency Barnes preferred. Eduardo Salazar, pitching for the Nationals, on Thursday flexed frustration when a long bloop found ground between Wood and Abrams, a play on which Wood probably should have called off

Abrams and made the catch.

But we would be getting it twisted to interpret anything from how Wood moves, how he rarely changes facial expression, as anything more than just his way. His motor, Martinez said, is churning. For example, Martinez said, it sometimes doesn't appear the 6-foot-7 Wood is running fast, "but he's getting after it." His style certainly belies his production at the plate. To be sure, according to Baseball Savant, Wood's exit velocity when he lays lumber on ball is 94.8 mph, which would, if he had enough at-bats, tie Soto for fourth in the majors — behind Aaron Judge, Shohei Ohtani and Oneil Cruz. He would be third in the hard-hit percentage metric, behind Judge and Ohtani. He would be well above the average barrel rate — all measurements for as wicked a hitter as can be found.

With his dreadlocked head, not unlike Abrams's, Wood has reminded me exactly of what legendary late Yale scholar of African art and philosophy Robert Farris Thompson wrote in a 1983 journal article titled "An Aesthetic of the Cool." He noted that while the English definition of cool may include the pejorative notion of "aloofness," the definition in West Africa, citing a paper presented at a Conference on the Traditional Artist in African Society, says cool is "... to reveal no emotion in situations where excitement and sentimentality are acceptable, in other words, to act as though one's mind were in another world," and that it is "particularly admirable to do difficult tasks with an air of ease and silent disdain."

If that was a prediction some day of a baseball player named James Wood, it was prescient.

Kevin B. Blackstone, ESPN panelist and professor at the Philip Merrill College of Journalism at the University of Maryland, writes sports commentary for The Washington Post.

PRO BASKETBALL

WNBA table with columns: Team, W, L, Pct, GB. Includes teams like New York, Connecticut, Indiana, Chicago, Washington.

WEST table with columns: Team, W, L, Pct, GB. Includes teams like Minnesota, Seattle, Las Vegas, Phoenix, Los Angeles.

THURSDAY'S GAMES table with columns: Team, Score. Includes Washington at Minnesota, Phoenix at Chicago.

FRIDAY'S GAMES table with columns: Team, Score. Includes Seattle at Atlanta, Phoenix at Indiana.

SATURDAY'S GAMES table with columns: Team, Score. Includes Minnesota at Washington, New York at Las Vegas.

SUNDAY'S GAMES table with columns: Team, Score. Includes Connecticut at Atlanta, Seattle at Indiana.

TUESDAY, AUG. 20 table with columns: Team, Score. Includes Seattle at Washington, Los Angeles at Connecticut.

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 21 table with columns: Team, Score. Includes Phoenix at Atlanta, Minnesota at Las Vegas.

PRO FOOTBALL

NFL preseason

WEEK 1 THURSDAY'S RESULTS table with columns: Team, Score. Includes N.Y. Giants at Detroit, Phoenix at New England.

FRIDAY'S RESULTS table with columns: Team, Score. Includes Philadelphia at Baltimore, Houston at Pittsburgh.

SATURDAY'S RESULTS table with columns: Team, Score. Includes N.Y. Jets at Washington, Chicago at Buffalo.

SUNDAY'S RESULTS table with columns: Team, Score. Includes Philadelphia at New England, Washington at Miami.

WEEK 2 THURSDAY'S GAME table with columns: Team, Score. Includes Philadelphia at New England.

SATURDAY'S GAMES table with columns: Team, Score. Includes Washington at Miami, Atlanta at Baltimore.

SUNDAY, AUG. 23 table with columns: Team, Score. Includes Jacksonville at Atlanta, Miami at Tampa Bay.

SATURDAY, AUG. 24 table with columns: Team, Score. Includes Baltimore at Green Bay, Minnesota at Philadelphia.

SUNDAY, AUG. 18 table with columns: Team, Score. Includes New Orleans at San Francisco, Green Bay at Denver.

WEEK 3 THURSDAY, AUG. 22 table with columns: Team, Score. Includes Indianapolis at Cincinnati, Chicago at Kansas City.

FRIDAY, AUG. 23 table with columns: Team, Score. Includes Jacksonville at Atlanta, Miami at Tampa Bay.

SATURDAY, AUG. 24 table with columns: Team, Score. Includes Baltimore at Green Bay, Minnesota at Philadelphia.

SUNDAY, AUG. 25 table with columns: Team, Score. Includes New England at Washington, Tennessee at New Orleans.

ARIZONA at Denver, 4:30

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

AP TOP 25

The Top 25 teams in the Associated Press college football poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, received total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote and previous ranking:

RECORD table with columns: Rank, Team, Record, Pts, Pvs. Includes Georgia (46), Ohio State (35), Oregon (1), Texas (0), Alabama (0), Mississippi (0), Notre Dame (0), Penn State (0), Michigan (0), Florida State (0), Missouri (0), Utah (0), LSU (0), Clemson (0), Tennessee (0), Oklahoma (0), Oklahoma State (0), Kansas State (0), Miami (0), Texas A&M (0), Arizona (0), Kansas (0), South California (0), North Carolina State (0), Iowa (0).

Others receiving votes: Louisville 111, Virginia Tech 77, Boise State 47, SMU 33, Iowa State 33, Liberty 32, Washington 23, West Virginia 17, Memphis 16, Nebraska 16, Wisconsin 15, UTSA 6, Tulane 5, Appalachian State 4, Kentucky 3, Auburn 2, Colorado 1.

TRANSACTIONS

MLB

Los Angeles Angels: Released RHP Zach Plesac. Minnesota Twins: Reinstated LHP Steven Okert from the reinstatement list. Optioned RHP Randy Dobnak to St. Paul (IL). Seattle Mariners: Re-signed OF Victor Robles to two-year contract extension. Toronto Blue Jays: Optioned SS Luis De Los Santos to Buffalo (IL). Selected the contract of 2B Will Wagner from Buffalo. Arizona Diamondbacks: Reinstated LHP Blake Walston from the 15-day IL. Optioned LHP Blake Walston to Reno (PCL).

NFL

Atlanta Falcons: Signed DB Josh Thompson to a contract. Baltimore Ravens: Activated DB T.J. Tampa from the PUP list. Buffalo Bills: Signed QB Ben DiNucci to a contract. Denver Broncos: Claimed DE Devonsha Maxwell from the active/PUP list. Cleveland Browns: Signed LB Brandon Bouyer-Randle to a contract. Signed RB D.K.aley to a contract. Signed RB Faion Hicks and Chase Williams to contracts. Waived DB Vincent Gray and LS Rex Sunahara. Terminated the contract of RB John Kelly Jr. Denver Broncos: Claimed DE Kaleb Hayes off waivers from the New York Giants.

NBA

Utah Jazz: Signed C Kyle Filipowski to a contract. Waived G Taevion Kinsey.

NHL

Calgary Flames: Signed D Van Kuznetsov and F Adam Klipko to one-year, two-way contracts. New Jersey Devils: Re-signed F Nolan Fontane to a one-year, two-way contract.

MFLS

FC Dallas: Acquired D Ruan Gregório Teixeira from CF Montreal in exchange for \$50,000 in 2024 General Allocation Money (GAM).

SCOREBOARD

SOCCER

MLS table with columns: Team, W, L, T, Pts, GF, GA. Includes teams like Miami CF, Cincinnati, Columbus, New York City FC, Charlotte FC, Orlando City, Toronto FC, Atlanta United, Philadelphia, CF Montreal, Nashville, D.C. United, Chicago, New England.

WEST table with columns: Team, W, L, T, Pts, GF, GA. Includes teams like LA Galaxy, Los Angeles FC, Real Salt Lake, Colorado, Vancouver, Houston, Seattle, Portland, Minnesota United, FC Dallas, Sporting KC, St. Louis City SC, San Jose.

SATURDAY, AUG. 24 table with columns: Team, Score. Includes FC Dallas at D.C. United, Seattle at Minnesota.

SUNDAY, AUG. 25 table with columns: Team, Score. Includes Los Angeles FC at Vancouver, New York at Charlotte.

SUNDAY, AUG. 31 table with columns: Team, Score. Includes D.C. United at Toronto FC, Philadelphia at New York.

SUNDAY, SEPT. 1 table with columns: Team, Score. Includes LA Galaxy at St. Louis City FC.

NWSL

Table with columns: Team, W, L, T, Pts, GF, GA. Includes teams like Orlando, Kansas City, Washington, Gotham FC, Portland, North Carolina, Chicago, Louisville, San Diego, Angel City, Houston, Seattle, Utah.

FRIDAY, AUG. 23 table with columns: Team, Score. Includes Orlando at Houston, Bay FC at Utah.

SATURDAY, AUG. 24 table with columns: Team, Score. Includes Portland at Gotham FC, Angel City at San Diego.

SUNDAY, AUG. 25 table with columns: Team, Score. Includes Kansas City at Washington, North Carolina at Seattle.

FRIDAY, AUG. 30 table with columns: Team, Score. Includes Bay FC at Portland.

SATURDAY, AUG. 31 table with columns: Team, Score. Includes Seattle at Louisville, Utah at Houston.

USL Championship

WESTERN CONFERENCE table with columns: Team, W, L, T, Pts, GF, GA. Includes teams like New Mexico, Sacramento, Oakland, Memphis, Las Vegas, Colorado Springs, Orange County, Monterey Bay FC, Tulsa, San Antonio, El Paso.

EASTERN CONFERENCE table with columns: Team, W, L, T, Pts, GF, GA. Includes teams like Louisville, Charleston, Indy, Birmingham, Rhode Island FC, Louisville, Loudoun, North Carolina, Pittsburgh, Hartford, Miami.

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS table with columns: Team, Score. Includes Pittsburgh at Detroit, Indy at Rhode Island.

FRIDAY'S RESULT table with columns: Team, Score. Includes Orange County at Tulsa.

SATURDAY'S RESULTS table with columns: Team, Score. Includes San Antonio at Pittsburgh, Rhode Island FC at Hartford.

SUNDAY'S RESULTS table with columns: Team, Score. Includes North Carolina at Colorado, Wany Yafan at China, def. Erika Andreeva.

WEDNESDAY'S MATCHES table with columns: Team, Score. Includes Memphis at Tulsa, Tulsa at New Mexico.

FRIDAY'S MATCH table with columns: Team, Score. Includes Detroit City FC at Birmingham.

SATURDAY'S MATCHES table with columns: Team, Score. Includes Colorado at Pittsburgh, Las Vegas at Hartford.

SUNDAY'S RESULTS table with columns: Team, Score. Includes Memphis at Tulsa, Tulsa at New Mexico.

FRIDAY'S MATCH table with columns: Team, Score. Includes Detroit City FC at Birmingham.

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SUNDAY'S RESULTS table with columns: Team, Score. Includes Memphis at Tulsa, Tulsa at New Mexico.

FRIDAY'S MATCH table with columns: Team, Score. Includes Detroit City FC at Birmingham.

SATURDAY'S MATCHES table with columns: Team, Score. Includes Colorado at Pittsburgh, Las Vegas at Hartford.

SUNDAY'S RESULTS table with columns: Team, Score. Includes Memphis at Tulsa, Tulsa at New Mexico.

MONDAY'S MATCH table with columns: Team, Score. Includes Leicester vs. Tottenham.

GOLF

PGA TOUR

WYNDHAM CHAMPIONSHIP At Sedgefield Country Club; in Greensboro, N.C. Purse: \$7.9 million. Yardsage: 7,131; Par: 70.

FINAL ROUND table with columns: Player, Score. Includes Aaron Rai (500), Max Greyserman (300), Ryo Hisatsune (163), J.J. Spaun (163).

PGA TOUR table with columns: Player, Score. Includes Eric Cole (80), Trace Crowe (80), Ben Griffin (80), Billy Horschel (80), Adam Svensson (80).

PGA TOUR table with columns: Player, Score. Includes Jacob Bridgman (53), Charley Hoffman (53), Beau Hossler (53), Chan Kim (53), Matt Kuchar (53), Matt McInnes (53), Keith Mitchell (53), Roger Sloan (53), Davis Thompson (53), Brendon Todd (53).

PGA TOUR table with columns: Player, Score. Includes Christiaan Bezuidenhout (37), Keegan Bradley (37), Nicolas Echavarria (37), Chris Gettner (37), Rico Hoey (37), Cameron Young (37).

PGA TOUR table with columns: Player, Score. Includes Adam Hadwin (28), Mackenzie Hughes (28), Seamus Power (28), Matt Wallace (28), Gary Woodland (28).

PGA TOUR table with columns: Player, Score. Includes Zach Johnson (21), Justin Lower (21), Denny McCarthy (21), Victor Perez (21), Patrick Rodgers (21).

PGA TOUR table with columns: Player, Score. Includes Nick Hardy (17), Chandler Phillips (17), Ryan Riley (17).

PGA TOUR table with columns: Player, Score. Includes Bryce Garnett (14), Doug Ghim (14), Sungjae Im (14), Kyoung-Hoon Lee (14).

PGA TOUR table with columns: Player, Score. Includes Daniel Berger (10), Zac Blair (10), Cameron Champ (10), Brian Harman (10), Maverick McNealy (10), Ryan Moore (10), Martin Trnava (10).

PGA TOUR table with columns: Player, Score. Includes Jorge Campillo (6), Taylor Moore (6), Andrew Novak (6), Chad Ramey (6), Justin Suh (6), Ben Taylor (6), Kevin Tway (6).

PGA TOUR table with columns: Player, Score. Includes Emiliano Grillo (5), Nate Lashley (5).

PGA TOUR table with columns: Player, Score. Includes Piercecon Coady (5), Jhonattan Vegas (5), Vince Whaley (4), Joel Dahmen (4), Matti Schmid (4).

PGA TOUR table with columns: Player, Score. Includes Seonghyeon Kim (4), Michael Kim (4).

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TUESDAY, AUGUST 13, 2024

850 Montgomery County 850 Montgomery County
BWW Law Group, LLC
6003 Executive Blvd., Suite 101
Rockville, MD 20852
(301) 961-6555

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEES' SALE OF REAL PROPERTY AND ANY IMPROVEMENTS THEREON
4324 SKYMIST TERRACE
OLNEY, MD 20832

Under a power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust dated October 21, 2005, recorded in Liber 31701, Folio 758 among the Land Records of Montgomery County, MD, with an original principal balance of \$532,000.00, default having occurred under the terms thereof, the Sub. Trustees will sell at public auction at the Circuit Court for Montgomery County, at the Court House Door, 50 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850, on

AUGUST 30, 2024 AT 11:06 AM

ALL THAT FEE SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND, together with any buildings or improvements thereon located in Montgomery County, MD and more fully described in the aforesaid Deed of Trust.

The property, and any improvements thereon, will be sold in an "as is" condition and subject to conditions, restrictions and agreements of record affecting the same, if any, and with no warranty of any kind.

Terms of Sale: A deposit of \$51,000 in the form of certified check, cashier's check or money order will be required of the purchaser at time and place of sale. Balance of the purchase price, together with interest on the unpaid purchase money at the current rate contained in the Deed of Trust Note, or any modifications thereto, from the date of sale to the date funds are received by the Sub. Trustees, payable in cash within ten days of final ratification of the sale by the Circuit Court. There will be no abatement of interest due to the purchaser in the event additional funds are tendered before settlement. TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE FOR THE PURCHASER. Adjustment of all real property taxes, including agricultural taxes, if applicable, and any and all public and/or private charges or assessments, to the extent such amounts survive foreclosure sale, including water/sewer and front foot benefit charges, to be adjusted to date of sale and thereafter assumed by purchaser. Purchaser is responsible for any recapture of homestead tax credit. All transfer taxes and recordation taxes shall be paid by Purchaser. Condominium fees and/or homeowners association dues, if any, shall be assumed by the purchaser from the date of sale. Purchaser is responsible for obtaining physical possession of the property, and assumes risk of loss or damage to the property from the date of sale. The sale is subject to post-sale audit of the status of the loan with the loan servicer including, but not limited to, determination of whether the borrower entered into any repayment agreement, reinstated or paid off the loan prior to the sale. In any such event, this sale shall be null and void, and the Purchaser's sole remedy, in law or equity, shall be the return of the deposit without interest. If purchaser fails to settle within ten days of ratification, subject to order of court, purchaser agrees that property will be resold and entire deposit retained by Sub. Trustees as liquidated damages for all losses occasioned by the purchaser's default and purchaser shall have no further liability. The purchaser waives personal service of any papers filed in connection with its failure to settle within ten days of ratification and expressly agrees to accept service by first class mail at the address provided by the Purchaser as identified on the Memorandum of Sale. The defaulted purchaser shall not be entitled to any surplus proceeds resulting from said resale even if such surplus results from improvements to the property by said defaulted purchaser. Sub. Trustees will convey either marketable or insurable title. If they cannot deliver one or the other, or if ratification of the sale is denied by the Circuit Court for any reason, the Purchaser's sole remedy, at law or equity, is return of the deposit without interest. (Matter No. 106148-2)

Howard N. Bierman, Carrie M. Ward, et. al.,
Substitute Trustees

ALEX COOPER
auctioneers
908 York Road • Towson, MD 21204 • 410.828.4838
www.alexcooper.com

Aug 13,20,27,2024 0012468126

850 Montgomery County 850 Montgomery County
BWW Law Group, LLC
6003 Executive Blvd., Suite 101
Rockville, MD 20852
(301) 961-6555

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEES' SALE OF REAL PROPERTY AND ANY IMPROVEMENTS THEREON
2145 EDGEWARE STREET
SILVER SPRING, MD 20905

Under a power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust dated January 9, 2018, recorded in Liber 55637, Folio 246 among the Land Records of Montgomery County, MD, with an original principal balance of \$325,000.00, default having occurred under the terms thereof, the Sub. Trustees will sell at public auction at the Circuit Court for Montgomery County, at the Court House Door, 50 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850, on

AUGUST 30, 2024 AT 11:00 AM

ALL THAT FEE SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND, together with any buildings or improvements thereon located in Montgomery County, MD and more fully described in the aforesaid Deed of Trust.

The property, and any improvements thereon, will be sold in an "as is" condition and subject to conditions, restrictions and agreements of record affecting the same, if any, and with no warranty of any kind.

Terms of Sale: A deposit of \$29,000 in the form of certified check, cashier's check or money order will be required of the purchaser at time and place of sale. Balance of the purchase price, together with interest on the unpaid purchase money at the current rate contained in the Deed of Trust Note, or any modifications thereto, from the date of sale to the date funds are received by the Sub. Trustees, payable in cash within ten days of final ratification of the sale by the Circuit Court. There will be no abatement of interest due to the purchaser in the event additional funds are tendered before settlement. TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE FOR THE PURCHASER. Adjustment of all real property taxes, including agricultural taxes, if applicable, and any and all public and/or private charges or assessments, to the extent such amounts survive foreclosure sale, including water/sewer and front foot benefit charges, to be adjusted to date of sale and thereafter assumed by purchaser. Purchaser is responsible for any recapture of homestead tax credit. All transfer taxes and recordation taxes shall be paid by Purchaser. Condominium fees and/or homeowners association dues, if any, shall be assumed by the purchaser from the date of sale. Purchaser is responsible for obtaining physical possession of the property, and assumes risk of loss or damage to the property from the date of sale. The sale is subject to post-sale audit of the status of the loan with the loan servicer including, but not limited to, determination of whether the borrower entered into any repayment agreement, reinstated or paid off the loan prior to the sale. In any such event, this sale shall be null and void, and the Purchaser's sole remedy, in law or equity, shall be the return of the deposit without interest. If purchaser fails to settle within ten days of ratification, subject to order of court, purchaser agrees that property will be resold and entire deposit retained by Sub. Trustees as liquidated damages for all losses occasioned by the purchaser's default and purchaser shall have no further liability. The purchaser waives personal service of any papers filed in connection with its failure to settle within ten days of ratification and expressly agrees to accept service by first class mail at the address provided by the Purchaser as identified on the Memorandum of Sale. The defaulted purchaser shall not be entitled to any surplus proceeds resulting from said resale even if such surplus results from improvements to the property by said defaulted purchaser. Sub. Trustees will convey either marketable or insurable title. If they cannot deliver one or the other, or if ratification of the sale is denied by the Circuit Court for any reason, the Purchaser's sole remedy, at law or equity, is return of the deposit without interest. (Matter No. 348988-1)

Howard N. Bierman, Carrie M. Ward, et. al.,
Substitute Trustees

ALEX COOPER
auctioneers
908 York Road • Towson, MD 21204 • 410.828.4838
www.alexcooper.com

Aug 13,20,27,2024 0012468123

The Washington Post
850 Montgomery County 850 Montgomery County
Brock and Scott, PLLC
5431 Oleander Drive
Wilmington NC, 28403

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEES' SALE OF VALUABLE FEE SIMPLE PROPERTY KNOWN AS
211 Jersey Ln
Rockville, MD 20850

Under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust to GENUINE TITLE LLC, Trustee(s), dated February 22, 2007, and recorded among the Land Records of MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND in Liber 34106, folio 664, 2,00023 the holder of the indebtedness secured by this Deed of Trust having appointed the undersigned Substitute Trustees, by instrument duly recorded among the aforesaid Land Records, default having occurred under the terms thereof, and at the request of the party secured thereby, the undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction at THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY COURTHOUSE LOCATED AT 50 MARYLAND AVENUE, ROCKVILLE, MD 20850 ON,

AUGUST 28, 2024 at 11:00 AM

ALL THAT FEE SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND and improvements thereon situated in MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD and described as follows:

LOT NUMBERED EIGHT (8) IN BLOCK N IN THE SUBDIVISION KNOWN AS "PLAT SIXTY-FIVE, FALLS GROVE", PER PLAT 22195, AND RECORDED AMONG THE LAND RECORDS OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

Property is subject to a prior mortgage.

The property will be sold in an "AS IS WHERE IS" condition without either express or implied warranty or representation, including but not limited to the description, fitness for a particular purpose or use, structural integrity, physical condition, construction, extent of construction, workmanship, materials, liability, zoning, subdivision, environmental condition, merchantability, compliance with building or housing codes or other laws, ordinances or regulations, or other similar matters, and subject to easements, agreements and restrictions of record which affect the same, if any. The property will be sold subject to all conditions, liens, restrictions and agreements of record affecting same including any condominium and/or HOA assessments pursuant to Md Real Property Article 11-110.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of \$99,500.00 payable in certified check or by a cashier's check will be required from purchaser at time of sale, balance in immediately available funds upon final ratification of sale by the Circuit Court of MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND interest to be paid at the rate of 2.00023% on unpaid purchase money from date of sale to date of settlement. The secured party herein, if a bidder, shall not be required to post a deposit. Third party purchaser (excluding the secured party) will be required to complete full settlement of the purchase of the property within TEN (10) CALENDAR DAYS of the ratification of the sale by the Circuit Court otherwise the purchaser's deposit shall be forfeited and the property will be resold at the risk and expense of the defaulting purchaser. All other public charges and private charges or assessments, including water/sewer charges, ground rent, taxes if any, are to be adjusted to date of sale. Cost of all documentary stamps and transfer taxes and all other costs incident to the settlement shall be borne by the purchaser. If applicable, condominium and/or homeowner association dues and assessments will be adjusted to date of sale. If the sale is rescinded or not ratified for any reason, including post sale lender audit, or the Substitute Trustees are unable to convey insurable title or a resale is to take place for any reason, the purchaser(s) sole remedy in law or equity shall be limited to the refund of the aforementioned deposit. The purchaser waives all rights and claims against the Substitute Trustees whether known or unknown. These provisions shall survive settlement Upon refund of the deposit, this sale shall be void and of no effect, and the purchaser shall have no further claim against the Substitute Trustees. The sale is subject to post-sale review of the status of the loan and that if any agreement to cancel the sale was entered into by the lender and borrower prior to the sale then the sale is void and the purchaser's deposit shall be refunded without interest. Additional terms and conditions, if applicable, maybe announced at the time and place of sale. Sale is subject to the attestation by the Borrower in accordance with Section 5.A of the Governor's order of 10.16.2020. File No. (23-32857)

JOHN C. HANRAHAN, JEREMY B. WILKINS, ROBERT A. OLIVERI, AMANDA DRISCOLE, PAUL HEINMULLER, Substitute Trustees

HARVEY KALIKOW
AUCTIONEERS, LLC
300 E. Joppa Road
Suite 103
Baltimore, MD 21286
410.799.9797

Aug 13,20,27,2024 0012467570

850 Montgomery County 850 Montgomery County
BWW Law Group, LLC
6003 Executive Blvd., Suite 101
Rockville, MD 20852
(301) 961-6555

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEES' SALE OF REAL PROPERTY AND ANY IMPROVEMENTS THEREON
4410 BOXWOOD ROAD
BETHESDA, MD 20816

Under a power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust dated December 5, 2016, recorded in Liber 53650, Folio 51 among the Land Records of Montgomery County, MD, with an original principal balance of \$413,000.00, default having occurred under the terms thereof, the Sub. Trustees will sell at public auction at the Circuit Court for Montgomery County, at the Court House Door, 50 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850, on

AUGUST 23, 2024 AT 3:31 PM

ALL THAT FEE SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND, together with any buildings or improvements thereon located in Montgomery County, MD and more fully described in the aforesaid Deed of Trust.

The property, and any improvements thereon, will be sold in an "as is" condition and subject to conditions, restrictions and agreements of record affecting the same, if any, and with no warranty of any kind.

Terms of Sale: A deposit of \$37,000 in the form of certified check, cashier's check or money order will be required of the purchaser at time and place of sale. Balance of the purchase price, together with interest on the unpaid purchase money at the current rate contained in the Deed of Trust Note, or any modifications thereto, from the date of sale to the date funds are received by the Sub. Trustees, payable in cash within ten days of final ratification of the sale by the Circuit Court. There will be no abatement of interest due to the purchaser in the event additional funds are tendered before settlement. TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE FOR THE PURCHASER. Adjustment of all real property taxes, including agricultural taxes, if applicable, and any and all public and/or private charges or assessments, to the extent such amounts survive foreclosure sale, including water/sewer and front foot benefit charges, to be adjusted to date of sale and thereafter assumed by purchaser. Purchaser is responsible for any recapture of homestead tax credit. All transfer taxes and recordation taxes shall be paid by Purchaser. Condominium fees and/or homeowners association dues, if any, shall be assumed by the purchaser from the date of sale. Purchaser is responsible for obtaining physical possession of the property, and assumes risk of loss or damage to the property from the date of sale. The sale is subject to post-sale audit of the status of the loan with the loan servicer including, but not limited to, determination of whether the borrower entered into any repayment agreement, reinstated or paid off the loan prior to the sale. In any such event, this sale shall be null and void, and the Purchaser's sole remedy, in law or equity, shall be the return of the deposit without interest. If purchaser fails to settle within ten days of ratification, subject to order of court, purchaser agrees that property will be resold and entire deposit retained by Sub. Trustees as liquidated damages for all losses occasioned by the purchaser's default and purchaser shall have no further liability. The purchaser waives personal service of any papers filed in connection with its failure to settle within ten days of ratification and expressly agrees to accept service by first class mail at the address provided by the Purchaser as identified on the Memorandum of Sale. The defaulted purchaser shall not be entitled to any surplus proceeds resulting from said resale even if such surplus results from improvements to the property by said defaulted purchaser. Sub. Trustees will convey either marketable or insurable title. If they cannot deliver one or the other, or if ratification of the sale is denied by the Circuit Court for any reason, the Purchaser's sole remedy, at law or equity, is return of the deposit without interest. (Matter No. 362026-2)

Howard N. Bierman, Carrie M. Ward, et. al.,
Substitute Trustees

ALEX COOPER
auctioneers
908 York Road • Towson, MD 21204 • 410.828.4838
www.alexcooper.com

Aug 6,13,20,2024 0012467529

850 Montgomery County 850 Montgomery County
BWW Law Group, LLC
6003 Executive Blvd., Suite 101
Rockville, MD 20852
(301) 961-6555

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEES' SALE OF REAL PROPERTY AND ANY IMPROVEMENTS THEREON
19111 NORTH KINDLY COURT
GAITHERSBURG A/R/T/A
MONTGOMERY VILLAGE, MD 20886

Under a power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust dated March 27, 2017, recorded in Liber 54205, Folio 90 among the Land Records of Montgomery County, MD, with an original principal balance of \$164,350.00, default having occurred under the terms thereof, the Sub. Trustees will sell at public auction at the Circuit Court for Montgomery County, at the Court House Door, 50 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850, on

AUGUST 23, 2024 AT 3:29 PM

ALL THAT FEE SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND, together with any buildings or improvements thereon located in Montgomery County, MD and more fully described in the aforesaid Deed of Trust.

The property, and any improvements thereon, will be sold in an "as is" condition and subject to conditions, restrictions and agreements of record affecting the same, if any, and with no warranty of any kind.

Terms of Sale: A deposit of \$15,000 in the form of certified check, cashier's check or money order will be required of the purchaser at time and place of sale. Balance of the purchase price, together with interest on the unpaid purchase money at the current rate contained in the Deed of Trust Note, or any modifications thereto, from the date of sale to the date funds are received by the Sub. Trustees, payable in cash within ten days of final ratification of the sale by the Circuit Court. There will be no abatement of interest due to the purchaser in the event additional funds are tendered before settlement. TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE FOR THE PURCHASER. Adjustment of all real property taxes, including agricultural taxes, if applicable, and any and all public and/or private charges or assessments, to the extent such amounts survive foreclosure sale, including water/sewer and front foot benefit charges, to be adjusted to date of sale and thereafter assumed by purchaser. Purchaser is responsible for any recapture of homestead tax credit. All transfer taxes and recordation taxes shall be paid by Purchaser. Condominium fees and/or homeowners association dues, if any, shall be assumed by the purchaser from the date of sale. Purchaser is responsible for obtaining physical possession of the property, and assumes risk of loss or damage to the property from the date of sale. The sale is subject to post-sale audit of the status of the loan with the loan servicer including, but not limited to, determination of whether the borrower entered into any repayment agreement, reinstated or paid off the loan prior to the sale. In any such event, this sale shall be null and void, and the Purchaser's sole remedy, in law or equity, shall be the return of the deposit without interest. If purchaser fails to settle within ten days of ratification, subject to order of court, purchaser agrees that property will be resold and entire deposit retained by Sub. Trustees as liquidated damages for all losses occasioned by the purchaser's default and purchaser shall have no further liability. The purchaser waives personal service of any papers filed in connection with its failure to settle within ten days of ratification and expressly agrees to accept service by first class mail at the address provided by the Purchaser as identified on the Memorandum of Sale. The defaulted purchaser shall not be entitled to any surplus proceeds resulting from said resale even if such surplus results from improvements to the property by said defaulted purchaser. Sub. Trustees will convey either marketable or insurable title. If they cannot deliver one or the other, or if ratification of the sale is denied by the Circuit Court for any reason, the Purchaser's sole remedy, at law or equity, is return of the deposit without interest. (Matter No. 355155-1)

Howard N. Bierman, Carrie M. Ward, et. al.,
Substitute Trustees

ALEX COOPER
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Aug 6,13,20,2024 0012467528

BWW Law Group, LLC
6003 Executive Blvd., Suite 101
Rockville, MD 20852
(301) 961-6555

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEES' SALE OF REAL PROPERTY AND ANY IMPROVEMENTS THEREON
419 BURN MILLS AVENUE
SILVER SPRING, MD 20901

Under a power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust dated June 26, 2006, recorded in Liber 32850, Folio 478 among the Land Records of Montgomery County, MD, with an original principal balance of \$80,000.00, default having occurred under the terms thereof, the Sub. Trustees will sell at public auction at the Circuit Court for Montgomery County, at the Court House Door, 50 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850, on

AUGUST 30, 2024 AT 11:04 AM

ALL THAT FEE SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND, together with any buildings or improvements thereon located in Montgomery County, MD and more fully described in the aforesaid Deed of Trust.

The property, and any improvements thereon, will be sold in an "as is" condition and subject to conditions, restrictions and agreements of record affecting the same, if any, and with no warranty of any kind. The property will be sold subject to a prior mortgage, and the amounts to be announced at the time of sale, if made available to the Substitute Trustees.

Terms of Sale: A deposit of \$7,000 in the form of certified check, cashier's check or money order will be required of the purchaser at time and place of sale. Balance of the purchase price, together with interest on the unpaid purchase money at the current rate contained in the Deed of Trust Note, or any modifications thereto, from the date of sale to the date funds are received by the Sub. Trustees, payable in cash within ten days of final ratification of the sale by the Circuit Court. There will be no abatement of interest due to the purchaser in the event additional funds are tendered before settlement. TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE FOR THE PURCHASER. Adjustment of all real property taxes, including agricultural taxes, if applicable, and any and all public and/or private charges or assessments, to the extent such amounts survive foreclosure sale, including water/sewer and front foot benefit charges, to be adjusted to date of sale and thereafter assumed by purchaser. Purchaser is responsible for any recapture of homestead tax credit. All transfer taxes and recordation taxes shall be paid by Purchaser. Condominium fees and/or homeowners association dues, if any, shall be assumed by the purchaser from the date of sale. Purchaser is responsible for obtaining physical possession of the property, and assumes risk of loss or damage to the property from the date of sale. The sale is subject to post-sale audit of the status of the loan with the loan servicer including, but not limited to, determination of whether the borrower entered into any repayment agreement, reinstated or paid off the loan prior to the sale. In any such event, this sale shall be null and void, and the Purchaser's sole remedy, in law or equity, shall be the return of the deposit without interest. If purchaser fails to settle within ten days of ratification, subject to order of court, purchaser agrees that property will be resold and entire deposit retained by Sub. Trustees as liquidated damages for all losses occasioned by the purchaser's default and purchaser shall have no further liability. The purchaser waives personal service of any papers filed in connection with its failure to settle within ten days of ratification and expressly agrees to accept service by first class mail at the address provided by the Purchaser as identified on the Memorandum of Sale. The defaulted purchaser shall not be entitled to any surplus proceeds resulting from said resale even if such surplus results from improvements to the property by said defaulted purchaser. Sub. Trustees will convey either marketable or insurable title. If they cannot deliver one or the other, or if ratification of the sale is denied by the Circuit Court for any reason, the Purchaser's sole remedy, at law or equity, is return of the deposit without interest. (Matter No. 356395-1)

Howard N. Bierman, Carrie M. Ward, et. al.,
Substitute Trustees

ALEX COOPER
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908 York Road • Towson, MD 21204 • 410.828.4838
www.alexcooper.com

Aug 13,20,27,2024 0012468125

BWW Law Group, LLC
6003 Executive Blvd., Suite 101
Rockville, MD 20852
(301) 961-6555

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEES' SALE OF REAL PROPERTY AND ANY IMPROVEMENTS THEREON
731 OWENS STREET
ROCKVILLE, MD 20850

Under a power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust dated July 3, 2003, recorded in Liber 25124, Folio 534 among the Land Records of Montgomery County, MD, with an original principal balance of \$149,750.00, default having occurred under the terms thereof, the Sub. Trustees will sell at public auction at the Circuit Court for Montgomery County, at the Court House Door, 50 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850, on

AUGUST 30, 2024 AT 11:02 AM

ALL THAT FEE SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND, together with any buildings or improvements thereon located in Montgomery County, MD and more fully described in the aforesaid Deed of Trust.

The property, and any improvements thereon, will be sold in an "as is" condition and subject to conditions, restrictions and agreements of record affecting the same, if any, and with no warranty of any kind.

Terms of Sale: A deposit of \$7,000 in the form of certified check, cashier's check or money order will be required of the purchaser at time and place of sale. Balance of the purchase price, together with interest on the unpaid purchase money at the current rate contained in the Deed of Trust Note, or any modifications thereto, from the date of sale to the date funds are received by the Sub. Trustees, payable in cash within ten days of final ratification of the sale by the Circuit Court. There will be no abatement of interest due to the purchaser in the event additional funds are tendered before settlement. TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE FOR THE PURCHASER. Adjustment of all real property taxes, including agricultural taxes, if applicable, and any and all public and/or private charges or assessments, to the extent such amounts survive foreclosure sale, including water/sewer and front foot benefit charges, to be adjusted to date of sale and thereafter assumed by purchaser. Purchaser is responsible for any recapture of homestead tax credit. All transfer taxes and recordation taxes shall be paid by Purchaser. Condominium fees and/or homeowners association dues, if any, shall be assumed by the purchaser from the date of sale. Purchaser is responsible for obtaining physical possession of the property, and assumes risk of loss or damage to the property from the date of sale. The sale is subject to post-sale audit of the status of the loan with the loan servicer including, but not limited to, determination of whether the borrower entered into any repayment agreement, reinstated or paid off the loan prior to the sale. In any such event, this sale shall be null and void, and the Purchaser's sole remedy, in law or equity, shall be the return of the deposit without interest. If purchaser fails to settle within ten days of ratification, subject to order of court, purchaser agrees that property will be resold and entire deposit retained by Sub. Trustees as liquidated damages for all losses occasioned by the purchaser's default and purchaser shall have no further liability. The purchaser waives personal service of any papers filed in connection with its failure to settle within ten days of ratification and expressly agrees to accept service by first class mail at the address provided by the Purchaser as identified on the Memorandum of Sale. The defaulted purchaser shall not be entitled to any surplus proceeds resulting from said resale even if such surplus results from improvements to the property by said defaulted purchaser. Sub. Trustees will convey either marketable or insurable title. If they cannot deliver one or the other, or if ratification of the sale is denied by the Circuit Court for any reason, the Purchaser's sole remedy, at law or equity, is return of the deposit without interest. (Matter No. 356190-2)

Howard N. Bierman, Carrie M. Ward, et. al.,
Substitute Trustees

ALEX COOPER
auctioneers
908 York Road • Towson, MD 21204 • 410.828.4838
www.alexcooper.com

Aug 13,20,27,2024 0012468124

DIAMOND IOTINA LLC
1 VILLAGE SQUARE, SUITE 158
BALTIMORE, MD 21210
443-825-4111

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE'S SALE OF IMPROVED REAL PROPERTY
7621 CARTERET ROAD
BETHESDA, MD 20817

Under a power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust from Nadine J. Temper dated December 20, 2016 and recorded in Book 53788, page 1 among the Land Records of Montgomery County, MD, (Case No. C-15-CV-24-000376) default having occurred under the terms thereof, the Substitute Trustee will sell at public auction at the Circuit Court for Montgomery County, at the Court House Door, 50 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850 on

AUGUST 30, 2024 AT 10:55 AM

ALL THAT FEE SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND AND THE IMPROVEMENTS THEREON situated in Montgomery County, MD and more fully described in the aforesaid Deed of Trust as follows:

Lot numbered Twenty-two (22) in Block numbered Six (6) in the subdivision known as "BURNING TREE ESTATES" as per plat recorded in Plat Book 74 at plat 7204, among the Land Records of Montgomery County, Maryland. Tax ID: 10-000869596
The property is improved by a dwelling in fee simple. The property will be sold subject to a prior Deed of Trust recorded among the land records for Montgomery County. The property and improvements to be sold in an "AS IS" condition and subject to conditions, restrictions, existing buildings and/or environmental violations, agreements of record affecting the same, if any, and with no warranty either expressed or implied as to the description of the condition of the property or improvements.

Terms of Sale: A deposit of \$10,000 in the form of a cashier's check or money order, at the time of sale will be required of all purchasers other than the holder of the Deed of Trust. Balance of the purchase price is to be paid in cash within ten (10) business days of the final ratification of sale by the Circuit Court for Montgomery County. If payment of the balance does not take place within ten (10) business days of the date of ratification of sale, then at the discretion of the Substitute Trustee either the deposit will be forfeited or the property will be resold at the risk and expense of the defaulting purchaser. The defaulting purchaser shall not be entitled to any surplus proceeds or profits resulting from any resale of the property. Interest to be paid on unpaid purchase money at the rate pursuant to the Deed of Trust note from date of sale to the date funds are received in the office of the Substitute Trustee, in the event the property is purchased by someone other than the note holder, there shall be no abatement of interest caused by the delay. Taxes, water rent, ground rent, condominium fees, and/or homeowners association dues, if applicable, to be adjusted to the date of sale and assumed thereafter by the purchaser. All other public charges and assessments payable on an annual basis, including sanitary and/or metropolitan district charges to be adjusted for the current year to date of sale and assumed thereafter by the purchaser. Cost of all documentary stamps and transfer taxes shall be borne by the purchaser. If the Substitute Trustee is unable to convey good and marketable title, the purchaser's sole remedy in law or equity shall be limited to the refund of the deposit. Upon refund of the deposit, the sale shall be void and of no effect, and the purchaser shall have no further claim against the Substitute Trustee. The purchaser at the foreclosure sale shall assume the risk of loss for the property immediately after the sale.

Cindy R. Diamond, Substitute Trustee

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auctioneers
908 York Road • Towson, MD 21204 • 410.828.4838
www.alexcooper.com

Aug 13,20,27,2024 0012467945

Rosenberg & Associates, LLC
4340 East West Highway, Suite 600
Bethesda, MD 20814
(301) 907-8000
www.rosenberg-assoc.com

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEES' SALE OF IMPROVED REAL PROPERTY
5 PARK VISTA COURT
SILVER SPRING, MD 20906

Under a power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust from Iva E. Johnson dated October 1, 2016 and recorded in Liber 53142, folio 245 among the Land Records of the Montgomery County, MD, default having occurred under the terms thereof, the Trustees will sell at public auction at the Circuit Court for Montgomery County, at the Court House Door, 50 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850, on

AUGUST 23, 2024 AT 3:38 PM

ALL THAT FEE SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND, together with the buildings and improvements thereon situated in Montgomery County, MD and more fully described in the aforesaid Deed of Trust, Tax ID #13-02747684.

The property, which is improved by a dwelling, will be sold in an "as is" condition and subject to conditions, restrictions and agreements of record affecting the same, if any, and with no warranty of any kind.

Terms of Sale: A deposit of \$25,000 in the form of certified check, cashier's check or money order will be required of the purchaser at time and place of sale. Balance of the purchase price to be paid in cash within ten days of final ratification of sale by the Circuit Court for Montgomery County. Interest to be paid on the unpaid purchase money at the rate pursuant to the Deed of Trust Note from the date of sale to the date funds are received in the office of the Trustees. There will be no abatement of interest in the event additional funds are tendered before settlement or if settlement is delayed for any reason. The noteholder shall not be obligated to pay interest if it is the purchaser. TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE FOR THE PURCHASER. There will be no reduction of interest due to overpayment of deposit. Adjustment of all real property taxes (excluding recapture of previously reduced or exempt taxes) and any other public charges or assessments, to the extent such amount survive foreclosure sale, including water/sewer charges, and ground rent to be adjusted to date of sale and paid at execution of the deed, except where the secured party is the purchaser, and thereafter assumed by the purchaser. All due and/or unpaid private utility, water and sewer facilities charges, condo/HOA assessments and Columbia Assoc. assessments, to the extent such amount survive foreclosure sale, are payable by the purchaser without adjustment. Cost of all documentary stamps, transfer taxes, recaptured taxes (including but not limited to agricultural taxes), and settlement expenses shall be borne by the purchaser. Purchaser shall be responsible for obtaining physical possession of the property. Purchaser assumes the risk of loss or damage to the property from the date of sale forward. Additional terms to be announced at the time of sale. If the Trustees are unable to convey good and marketable title, the purchaser's sole remedy in law and equity shall be limited to a refund of the deposit without interest. If the purchaser fails to go to settlement, the deposit shall be forfeited, to the Trustees for application against all expenses, attorney's fees and the full commission on the sale price of the above-scheduled foreclosure sale. In the event of default, all expenses of this sale (including attorney's fees and the full commission on the gross sale price of this sale) shall be charged against and paid out of the forfeited deposit. The Trustees may then re-advertise and resell the property at the risk and expense of the defaulting purchaser or may avail themselves of any legal or equitable remedies against the defaulting purchaser without reselling the property. In the event of a resale, the defaulting purchaser shall not be entitled to receive the surplus, if any, even if such surplus results from improvements to the property by said defaulting purchaser and the defaulting purchaser shall be liable to the Trustees and secured party for reasonable attorney's fees and expenses incurred in connection with all litigation involving the Property or the proceeds of the resale. Defaulting purchaser waives personal service of any document filed in connection with such a motion on him/ herself and/or any principal or corporate designee, and expressly agrees to accept service of any such document by regular mail directed to the address provided by said purchaser at the time of the foreclosure auction. Trustees' file number 24-002300-MD-F-1.

Diane S. Rosenberg, Mark D. Meyer, et., Trustees

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auctioneers
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www.alexcooper.com

Aug 6,13,20,2024 0012467533

Rosenberg & Associates, LLC
4340 East West Highway, Suite 600
Bethesda, MD 20814
(301) 907-8000
www.rosenberg-assoc.com

D8 CLASSIFIED

850 Montgomery County 850 Montgomery County
McCabe, Weisberg & Conway, LLC
312 Marshall Avenue, Suite 800
Laurel, MD 20707
www.mwc-law.com
SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEES' SALE OF IMPROVED REAL PROPERTY
2308 HOLLY SPRING DRIVE
SILVER SPRING, MD 20905

Under a power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust from Naveen Khosla, dated August 2, 2005 and recorded in Liber 30701, folio 740 among the Land Records of Montgomery County, MD, default having occurred under the terms thereof and at the request of the parties secured thereby, the undersigned Substitute Trustees will offer for sale at public auction at the Circuit Court for Montgomery County, at the Court House Door, 50 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850, on

AUGUST 23, 2024 AT 3:45 PM

ALL THAT FEE SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND AND THE IMPROVEMENTS THEREON situated in Montgomery County, Maryland and more fully described in the aforesaid Deed of Trust. The property is improved by a dwelling. The property will be sold in an "as is" condition and subject to conditions, restrictions, easements, encumbrances and agreements of record affecting the subject property, if any, and with no warranty of any kind.

Terms of Sale: A deposit in the form of cashier's or certified check, or in such other form as the Substitute Trustees may determine, at their sole discretion, for \$38,000 at the time of sale. If the noteholder and/or servicer is the successful bidder, the deposit requirement is waived. Balance of the purchase price is to be paid within ten (10) days of the final ratification of the sale by the Circuit Court for Montgomery County, Maryland. Interest is to be paid on the unpaid purchase price at the rate of 5% per annum from the date of sale to the date the funds are received in the office of the Substitute Trustees, if the property is purchased by an entity other than the noteholder and/or servicer. If payment of the balance does not occur within ten (10) days of ratification, the deposit will be forfeited as liquidated damages. The purchaser agrees that the property may be resold pursuant to an order of court, waives personal service upon themselves and/or any principal or corporate designee of any documents filed regarding the failure to pay the purchase price within ten (10) days of ratification and expressly agrees to accept service by first class mail of said documents at the address provided by the purchaser in the Memorandum of Sale. The purchaser will not be entitled to any surplus or profits arising from the resale even if they are the result of improvements made by the purchaser. There will be no abatement of interest due from the purchaser in the event settlement is delayed for any reason. Taxes, water rent, and all other public charges and assessments payable on an annual basis, including sanitary and/or metropolitan district charges to be adjusted for the current year to the date of sale, and assumed thereafter by the purchaser. Condominium fees and/or homeowners association dues, if any, shall be assumed by the purchaser from the date of sale. The purchaser shall be responsible for the payment of the ground rent escrow, if required. Cost of all documentary stamps, transfer taxes (including agricultural transfer taxes, if applicable), and all settlement charges shall be borne by the purchaser. The sale is subject to a post sale audit of the loan, including but not limited to an analysis of whether the borrower entered into a loan modification agreement, filed bankruptcy, reinstated or paid off the loan prior to the sale. The Substitute Trustees will convey either insurable or marketable title. If the Substitute Trustees are unable to convey insurable or marketable title or, the post sale audit concludes that the sale should not have occurred, or the sale is not ratified by the court for any reason, the purchaser's sole remedy in law or equity shall be limited to the refund of the deposit without interest even if the purchaser has made improvements to the property. Upon refund of the deposit, the sale shall be void and of no effect, and the purchaser shall have no further claim against the Substitute Trustees. Purchaser shall be responsible for obtaining physical possession of the property. The purchaser at the foreclosure sale shall assume the risk of loss for the property immediately after the sale. (Matter #22-600722). The property will be sold subject to a 120 day right of redemption by the Internal Revenue Service.

Laura H. G. O'Sullivan, et al., Substitute Trustees



Aug 6,13,20 2024 0012466957

McCabe, Weisberg & Conway, LLC
312 Marshall Avenue, Suite 800
Laurel, MD 20707
www.mwc-law.com

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEES' SALE OF IMPROVED REAL PROPERTY
12315 BLUHILL ROAD
SILVER SPRING, MD 20902

Under a power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust from Victor M. Cruz and Dora Cruz, dated April 24, 2007 and recorded in Liber 34345, folio 284 among the Land Records of Montgomery County, MD, default having occurred under the terms thereof and at the request of the parties secured thereby, the undersigned Substitute Trustees will offer for sale at public auction at the Circuit Court for Montgomery County, at the Court House Door, 50 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850, on

AUGUST 16, 2024 AT 10:35 AM

ALL THAT FEE SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND AND THE IMPROVEMENTS THEREON situated in Montgomery County, Maryland and more fully described in the aforesaid Deed of Trust. The property is improved by a dwelling. The property will be sold in an "as is" condition and subject to conditions, restrictions, easements, encumbrances and agreements of record affecting the subject property, if any, and with no warranty of any kind.

Terms of Sale: A deposit in the form of cashier's or certified check, or in such other form as the Substitute Trustees may determine, at their sole discretion, for \$9,000 at the time of sale. If the noteholder and/or servicer is the successful bidder, the deposit requirement is waived. Balance of the purchase price is to be paid within ten (10) days of the final ratification of the sale by the Circuit Court for Montgomery County, Maryland. Interest is to be paid on the unpaid purchase price at the rate of 7.25% per annum from the date of sale to the date the funds are received in the office of the Substitute Trustees, if the property is purchased by an entity other than the noteholder and/or servicer. If payment of the balance does not occur within ten (10) days of ratification, the deposit will be forfeited as liquidated damages. The purchaser agrees that the property may be resold pursuant to an order of court, waives personal service upon themselves and/or any principal or corporate designee of any documents filed regarding the failure to pay the purchase price within ten (10) days of ratification and expressly agrees to accept service by first class mail of said documents at the address provided by the purchaser in the Memorandum of Sale. The purchaser will not be entitled to any surplus or profits arising from the resale even if they are the result of improvements made by the purchaser. There will be no abatement of interest due from the purchaser in the event settlement is delayed for any reason. Taxes, water rent, and all other public charges and assessments payable on an annual basis, including sanitary and/or metropolitan district charges to be adjusted for the current year to the date of sale, and assumed thereafter by the purchaser. Condominium fees and/or homeowners association dues, if any, shall be assumed by the purchaser from the date of sale. The purchaser shall be responsible for the payment of the ground rent escrow, if required. Cost of all documentary stamps, transfer taxes (including agricultural transfer taxes, if applicable), and all settlement charges shall be borne by the purchaser. The sale is subject to a post sale audit of the loan, including but not limited to an analysis of whether the borrower entered into a loan modification agreement, filed bankruptcy, reinstated or paid off the loan prior to the sale. The Substitute Trustees will convey either insurable or marketable title. If the Substitute Trustees are unable to convey insurable or marketable title or, the post sale audit concludes that the sale should not have occurred, or the sale is not ratified by the court for any reason, the purchaser's sole remedy in law or equity shall be limited to the refund of the deposit without interest even if the purchaser has made improvements to the property. Upon refund of the deposit, the sale shall be void and of no effect, and the purchaser shall have no further claim against the Substitute Trustees. Purchaser shall be responsible for obtaining physical possession of the property. The purchaser at the foreclosure sale shall assume the risk of loss for the property immediately after the sale. (Matter #23-600861).

Laura H. G. O'Sullivan, et al., Substitute Trustees



Jul 30, Aug 6, 13 2024 0012466803

850 Montgomery County 850 Montgomery County
BWW Law Group, LLC
6003 Executive Blvd., Suite 101
Rockville, MD 20852
(301) 961-6555
SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEES' SALE OF REAL PROPERTY AND ANY IMPROVEMENTS THEREON
8205 BRUCAR COURT
GAITHERSBURG, MD 20877

Under a power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust dated December 2, 2005, recorded in Liber 31518, Folio 705 among the Land Records of Montgomery County, MD, with an original principal balance of \$52,500.00, default having occurred under the terms thereof, the Sub-Trustees will sell at public auction at the Circuit Court for Montgomery County, at the Court House Door, 50 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850, on

AUGUST 16, 2024 AT 10:40 AM

ALL THAT FEE SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND, together with any buildings or improvements thereon located in Montgomery County, MD and more fully described in the aforesaid Deed of Trust. The property, and any improvements thereon, will be sold in an "as is" condition and subject to conditions, restrictions and agreements of record affecting the same, if any, and with no warranty of any kind.

Terms of Sale: A deposit of \$35,000 in the form of certified check, cashier's check or money order will be required of the purchaser at time and place of sale. Balance of the purchase price, together with interest on the unpaid purchase money at the current rate contained in the Deed of Trust Note, or any modifications thereto, from the date of sale to the date the funds are received by the Sub-Trustees, payable in cash within ten days of final ratification of the sale by the Circuit Court. There will be no abatement of interest due to the purchaser in the event additional funds are tendered before settlement. TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE FOR THE PURCHASER. Adjustment of all real property taxes, including agricultural taxes, if applicable, and any and all public and/or private charges or assessments, to the extent such amounts survive foreclosure sale, including water/sewer and front foot benefit charges, to be adjusted to date of sale and thereafter assumed by purchaser. Purchaser is responsible for any recapture of homestead tax credit. All transfer taxes and recordation taxes shall be paid by Purchaser. Condominium fees and/or homeowners association dues, if any, shall be assumed by the purchaser from the date of sale. Purchaser is responsible for obtaining physical possession of the property, and assumes risk of loss or damage to the property from the date of sale. The sale is subject to post-sale audit of the status of the loan with the loan servicer including, but not limited to, determination of whether the borrower entered into any repayment agreement, reinstated or paid off the loan prior to the sale. In any such event, this sale shall be null and void, and the Purchaser's sole remedy in law or equity, shall be the return of the deposit without interest. If purchaser fails to settle within ten days of ratification, subject to order of court, purchaser agrees that property will be resold and entire deposit retained by Sub-Trustees as liquidated damages for all losses occasioned by the purchaser's default and purchaser shall have no further liability. The purchaser waives personal service of any papers filed in connection with its failure to settle within ten days of ratification and expressly agrees to accept service by first class mail at the address provided by the Purchaser as identified on the Memorandum of Sale. The defaulted purchaser shall not be entitled to any surplus proceeds resulting from said resale even if such surplus results from improvements to the property by said defaulted purchaser. Sub-Trustees will convey either marketable or insurable title. If they cannot deliver one or the other, or if ratification of the sale is denied by the Circuit Court for any reason, the Purchaser's sole remedy, at law or equity, is return of the deposit without interest. (Matter No. 45610-5)

Howard N. Bierman, Carrie M. Ward, et al., Substitute Trustees



Jul 30, Aug 6, 13 2024 0012466801

851 Prince Georges County 851 Prince Georges County
GREENSPOON MARDER, LLP
201 International Circle, Suite 230
Hunt Valley, MD 21030
SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE'S SALE OF IMPROVED REAL PROPERTY KNOWN AS
506 PEACOCK DRIVE
Lanover, MD 20785

By virtue of a power of sale contained in a Deed of Trust from OLUSEGUN ADELEGAN, dated February 16, 2021 and recorded in book 44950, page 283 among the Land Records of PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, Maryland, default having occurred thereunder (Foreclosure Case docketed as Case No. C-16-CV-24-000502, Tax ID No. 18-2053023) the Substitute Trustee will sell at public auction PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY courthouse located at FRONT OF THE DUVAL WING OF THE COURTHOUSE COMPLEX 14735 MAIN ST, UPPER MARLBORO, MD 20772 .

AUGUST 22, 2024 at 2:00 PM

ALL THAT FEE SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND and improvements thereon situated in PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MD and more fully described in above referenced Deed of Trust. The property will be sold in an "as is" condition and subject to conditions, restrictions and agreements of record affecting the same, if any and with no warranty of any kind.

Terms of Sale: A deposit of \$ 30,000.00 will be required at the time of sale, such deposit to be in CERTIFIED CHECK OR BY CASHIER'S CHECK, CASH WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. Balance of the purchase price to be paid in cash within ten days of final ratification of sale by the Circuit Court for PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY. Time is of the essence as to the purchaser. If the purchaser defaults, the deposit shall be forfeited and the property shall be resold at the purchaser's risk and expense. The purchaser waives personal service and accepts service by first class mail and certified mail addressed to the address provided by said Purchaser as identified on the Memorandum of Sale for any Motion or Show Cause Order incident to this sale including a Motion to Default Purchaser and for Resale of the Property. In the event of a resale, the defaulting purchaser shall not be entitled to receive any benefit from the resale, including, but not limited to, additional proceeds or surplus which may arise therefrom. Interest to be paid on the unpaid purchase money at five percent (5%) from the date of sale to the date funds are received by the Substitute Trustee. There will be no abatement of interest in the event additional funds are tendered at the time of sale or any time prior to settlement or if the settlement is delayed for any reason. In the event that the Secured Party executes a forbearance agreement with the borrower(s) described in the above-mentioned Deed of Trust, or allows the borrower(s) to execute their right to reinstate or payoff the subject loan, prior to the sale, with or without the Substitute Trustee's prior knowledge, this Contract shall be null and void and of no effect, and the Purchaser's sole remedy shall be the return of the deposit without interest. Purchaser shall pay for documentary stamps, transfer taxes and settlement expenses. Taxes, ground rent, water rent, condominium fees and/or homeowner association dues, all public charges/assessments payable on an annual basis, including sanitary and/or metropolitan district charges, if applicable, shall be adjusted to the date of sale and assumed thereafter by the purchaser. Purchaser shall be responsible for obtaining physical possession of the property. Purchaser assumes the risk of loss or damage to the property from the date of sale forward. If the Substitute Trustee is unable to convey insurable title for any reason, the Purchaser's sole remedy in law or equity shall be limited to a refund of the aforementioned deposit without interest. In the event the sale is not ratified for any reason, the Purchaser's sole remedy, at law or equity, is the return of the deposit without interest. (File # 23-001575-01)

SYDNEY E. ROBERSON, NICOLE LIPINSKI, MARC MEDEL, Substitute Trustee (s)



Aug 6, 13, 20 2024 0012466084

The Washington Post

851 Prince Georges County 851 Prince Georges County
GREENSPOON MARDER, LLP
201 International Circle, Suite 230
Hunt Valley, MD 21030
SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE'S SALE OF IMPROVED REAL PROPERTY KNOWN AS
12407 APPLECROSS DRIVE
Clinton, MD 20735

By virtue of a power of sale contained in a Deed of Trust from CYNTHIA K. BUSH, dated January 19, 2007 and recorded in book 27225, page 134 among the Land Records of PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, Maryland, default having occurred thereunder (Foreclosure Case docketed as Case No. C-16-CV-24-001483, Tax ID No. 05-0276364) the Substitute Trustee will sell at public auction PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY courthouse located at FRONT OF THE DUVAL WING OF THE COURTHOUSE COMPLEX 14735 MAIN ST, UPPER MARLBORO, MD 20772 .

AUGUST 22, 2024 at 2:00 PM

ALL THAT FEE SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND and improvements thereon situated in PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MD and more fully described in above referenced Deed of Trust.

The property will be sold in an "as is" condition and subject to conditions, restrictions and agreements of record affecting the same, if any and with no warranty of any kind.

Terms of Sale: A deposit of \$ 35,000.00 will be required at the time of sale, such deposit to be in CERTIFIED CHECK OR BY CASHIER'S CHECK, CASH WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. Balance of the purchase price to be paid in cash within ten days of final ratification of sale by the Circuit Court for PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY. Time is of the essence as to the purchaser. If the purchaser defaults, the deposit shall be forfeited and the property shall be resold at the purchaser's risk and expense. The purchaser waives personal service and accepts service by first class mail and certified mail addressed to the address provided by said Purchaser as identified on the Memorandum of Sale for any Motion or Show Cause Order incident to this sale including a Motion to Default Purchaser and for Resale of the Property. In the event of a resale, the defaulting purchaser shall not be entitled to receive any benefit from the resale, including, but not limited to, additional proceeds or surplus which may arise therefrom. Interest to be paid on the unpaid purchase money at five percent (5%) from the date of sale to the date funds are received by the Substitute Trustee. There will be no abatement of interest in the event additional funds are tendered at the time of sale or any time prior to settlement or if the settlement is delayed for any reason. In the event that the Secured Party executes a forbearance agreement with the borrower(s) described in the above-mentioned Deed of Trust, or allows the borrower(s) to execute their right to reinstate or payoff the subject loan, prior to the sale, with or without the Substitute Trustee's prior knowledge, this Contract shall be null and void and of no effect, and the Purchaser's sole remedy shall be the return of the deposit without interest. Purchaser shall pay for documentary stamps, transfer taxes and settlement expenses. Taxes, ground rent, water rent, condominium fees and/or homeowner association dues, all public charges/assessments payable on an annual basis, including sanitary and/or metropolitan district charges, if applicable, shall be adjusted to the date of sale and assumed thereafter by the purchaser. Purchaser shall be responsible for obtaining physical possession of the property. Purchaser assumes the risk of loss or damage to the property from the date of sale forward. If the Substitute Trustee is unable to convey insurable title for any reason, the Purchaser's sole remedy in law or equity shall be limited to a refund of the aforementioned deposit without interest. In the event the sale is not ratified for any reason, the Purchaser's sole remedy, at law or equity, is the return of the deposit without interest. (File # 23-001958-01)

NICOLE LIPINSKI, MARC MEDEL, Substitute Trustee (s)



Aug 6, 13, 20 2024 0012466078

851 Prince Georges County 851 Prince Georges County
GREENSPOON MARDER, LLP
201 International Circle, Suite 230
Hunt Valley, MD 21030
SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE'S SALE OF IMPROVED REAL PROPERTY KNOWN AS
1309 IRON FORGE ROAD
District Heights, MD 20747

By virtue of a power of sale contained in a Deed of Trust from FLOSSIE S. DINGLE, dated July 3, 2008 and recorded in book 30728, page 134 among the Land Records of PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, Maryland, default having occurred thereunder (Foreclosure Case docketed as Case No. CAEF20-03207, Tax ID No. 06-0471680) the Substitute Trustee will sell at public auction PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY courthouse located at FRONT OF THE DUVAL WING OF THE COURTHOUSE COMPLEX 14735 MAIN ST, UPPER MARLBORO, MD 20772 .

AUGUST 15, 2024 at 2:00 PM

ALL THAT FEE SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND and improvements thereon situated in PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MD and more fully described in above referenced Deed of Trust.

The property will be sold in an "as is" condition and subject to conditions, restrictions and agreements of record affecting the same, if any and with no warranty of any kind.

Terms of Sale: A deposit of \$ 33,000.00 will be required at the time of sale, such deposit to be in CERTIFIED CHECK OR BY CASHIER'S CHECK, CASH WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. Balance of the purchase price to be paid in cash within ten days of final ratification of sale by the Circuit Court for PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY. Time is of the essence as to the purchaser. If the purchaser defaults, the deposit shall be forfeited and the property shall be resold at the purchaser's risk and expense. The purchaser waives personal service and accepts service by first class mail and certified mail addressed to the address provided by said Purchaser as identified on the Memorandum of Sale for any Motion or Show Cause Order incident to this sale including a Motion to Default Purchaser and for Resale of the Property. In the event of a resale, the defaulting purchaser shall not be entitled to receive any benefit from the resale, including, but not limited to, additional proceeds or surplus which may arise therefrom. Interest to be paid on the unpaid purchase money at five percent (5%) from the date of sale to the date funds are received by the Substitute Trustee. There will be no abatement of interest in the event additional funds are tendered at the time of sale or any time prior to settlement or if the settlement is delayed for any reason. In the event that the Secured Party executes a forbearance agreement with the borrower(s) described in the above-mentioned Deed of Trust, or allows the borrower(s) to execute their right to reinstate or payoff the subject loan, prior to the sale, with or without the Substitute Trustee's prior knowledge, this Contract shall be null and void and of no effect, and the Purchaser's sole remedy shall be the return of the deposit without interest. Purchaser shall pay for documentary stamps, transfer taxes and settlement expenses. Taxes, ground rent, water rent, condominium fees and/or homeowner association dues, all public charges/assessments payable on an annual basis, including sanitary and/or metropolitan district charges, if applicable, shall be adjusted to the date of sale and assumed thereafter by the purchaser. Purchaser shall be responsible for obtaining physical possession of the property. Purchaser assumes the risk of loss or damage to the property from the date of sale forward. If the Substitute Trustee is unable to convey insurable title for any reason, the Purchaser's sole remedy in law or equity shall be limited to a refund of the aforementioned deposit without interest. In the event the sale is not ratified for any reason, the Purchaser's sole remedy, at law or equity, is the return of the deposit without interest. (File # 68612.0104)

NICOLE LIPINSKI, MARC MEDEL, Substitute Trustee (s)



Jul 30, Aug 6, 13 2024 0012465611

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851 Prince Georges County 851 Prince Georges County
Samuel I. White, P.C.
448 VIKING DRIVE, SUITE 350
VIRGINIA BEACH, VA 23452
SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEES' SALE OF VALUABLE FEE SIMPLE PROPERTY KNOWN AS
3700 Copperville Way
Fort Washington, MD 20744

Under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust to MICHAEL LYON, Trustee(s), dated December 27, 2006, and recorded among the Land Records of PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND in Liber 27827, folio 277, the holder of the indebtedness secured by this Deed of Trust having appointed the undersigned Substitute Trustees, by instrument duly recorded among the aforesaid Land Records, default having occurred under the terms thereof, and at the request of the party secured thereby, the undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction at THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COURTHOUSE LOCATED AT FRONT OF THE DUVAL WING OF THE COURTHOUSE COMPLEX 14735 MAIN ST, UPPER MARLBORO, MD 20772 ON,

AUGUST 15, 2024 at 10:00 AM

ALL THAT FEE SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND and improvements thereon situated in PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MD and described as follows:

THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED LAND AND PREMISES, WITH THE IMPROVEMENTS, EASEMENTS, AND APPURTENANCES THEREUNTO BELONGING, SITUATE, LYING AND BEING IN THE 12TH ELECTION DISTRICT OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND, NAMED: LOT NUMBERED TWELVE (12) IN BLOCK LETTERED "N" IN THE SUBDIVISION KNOWN AS "SECTION THREE - STONEGATE" AS PER PLAT THEREON RECORDED AMONG THE LAND RECORDS OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND, IN PLAT BOOK NLP 141 AT PLAT 65

THE PROPERTY IS SUBJECT TO A PRIOR MORTGAGE, IF AVAILABLE THE AMOUNT WILL BE ANNOUNCED AT THE TIME OF THE SALE

The property will be sold in an "AS IS WHERE IS" condition without either express or implied warranty or representation, including but not limited to the description, fitness for a particular purpose or use, structural integrity, physical condition, construction, extent of construction, workmanship, materials, liability, zoning, subdivision, environmental condition, merchantability, compliance with building or housing codes or other laws, ordinances or regulations, or other similar matters, and subject to easements, agreements and restrictions of record which affect the same, if any. The property will be sold subject to all conditions, liens, restrictions and agreements of record affecting same including any condominium and of HOA assessments pursuant to Md Real Property Article 11-110.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of \$20,000.00 PAYABLE ONLY BY certified funds, shall be required at the time of sale. CASH WILL NOT BE AN ACCEPTABLE FORM OF DEPOSIT. The balance of the purchase price with interest at 11.25% per annum from the date of sale to the date of payment will be paid within TEN DAYS after the final ratification of the sale. There will be no abatement of interest for any reason. Adjustments on all taxes, public charges and special or regular assessments will be made as of the date of sale and thereafter assumed by purchaser. There will be no abatement of taxes, public charges and special or regular assessments for any reason. If applicable, condominium and/or homeowner association dues and assessments that may become due after the time of sale will be the responsibility of the purchaser. Title examination, conveyancing, state revenue stamps, transfer taxes, title insurance, and all other costs incident to settlement are to be paid by the purchaser. Time is of the essence for the purchaser, otherwise the deposit will be forfeited, and the property may be resold at risk and costs of the defaulting purchaser and the purchaser agrees to pay reasonable attorneys' fees for the Substitute trustees, plus all cost incurred, if the Substitute Trustee's have filed the appropriate motion with the Court to rescind the property. The purchaser waives personal service of any papers filed in connection with such a motion and expressly agrees to the purchaser agrees to accept service by first class mail at the address provided by the Purchaser as identified on the Memorandum of Sale. If the sale is not ratified or if the Substitute Trustees are unable to convey marketable title in accord with these terms of sale, the purchaser's only remedy is return of the deposit.

The sale is subject to post-sale confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the loan servicer including, but not limited to, determination of whether the borrower entered into a repayment agreement, reinstated, or paid off the loan prior to sale. In any such event, this sale shall be null and void, and the Purchaser's sole remedy, in law or equity, shall be the return of the deposit without interest. Trustee's File No. (82216)

Robert A. Jones, et al SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEES



Jul 30, Aug 6, 13 2024 0012464757

EZ TUESDAY, AUGUST 13, 2024
852 Anne Arundel County 852 Anne Arundel County
Pardo & Drazin, LLC
Russell S. Drazin, Attorney
4400 Jenifer Street, NW, Suite 2
Washington, DC 20015
202-223-7900
TRUSTEE'S SALE OF REAL PROPERTY
5463 Sands Road
Lothian, MD 20711
Account ID 08-000-00878500

Under a power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust ("Deed of Trust") dated September 29, 2023 and recorded on October 11, 2023 in Book 39993 at Page 329 from DLINAS PROPERTIES L.L.C. ("Borrower"), as grantor to RUSSELL S. DRAZIN ("Trustee"), as trustee, for the benefit of WCP FUND I LLC ("Lender"), as beneficiary, securing that certain Commercial Deed of Trust Note ("Note") dated September 29, 2023 in the principal amount of \$253,750.00, default having occurred under the terms thereof, Trustee will sell at public auction at the front entrance of the Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County located at 8 Church Circle, Annapolis, Maryland, on

AUGUST 29, 2024 AT 12:00 PM

ALL THAT FEE-SIMPLE OR LEASEHOLD LOT OF GROUND AND ANY IMPROVEMENTS THEREON situated in Anne Arundel County, Maryland, commonly known as 5463 Sands Road, Lothian, MD 20711 (Account ID 08-000-00878500) and more fully described in the Deed of Trust, as well as ALL PERSONAL PROPERTY encumbered by the Deed of Trust (collectively, "Property").

The Property will be sold in an "AS IS" condition and subject to recorded covenants, conditions, restrictions, agreements, and senior liens, if any, and with no warranty of any kind.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of \$30,000.00 by cashier's check will be required of the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance of the purchase price to be paid in cash or certified funds within ten (10) days of final ratification of the sale by the Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County. Interest to be paid on the unpaid purchase money at the rate in effect under the debt instrument secured by the Deed of Trust from the date of sale to the date of settlement. Secured Party, if a bidder, shall not be required to post a deposit or to pay interest.

Purchaser shall settle within ten (10) days of final ratification of the sale by the Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County. TIME SHALL BE OF THE ESSENCE WITH RESPECT TO SETTLEMENT BY PURCHASER. Cost of all documentary stamps (recording taxes), transfer taxes and settlement expenses shall be borne by purchaser. Taxes, ground rent, water, and sewer, if applicable, are to be adjusted for the current year to the date of sale and assumed thereafter by purchaser.

In the event purchaser does not settle as required for any reason, purchaser shall be in default. Upon such default, Trustee may file a motion to rescind the Property at the risk and expense of defaulting purchaser. Purchaser hereby consents to entry of such resale Order without further notice. Defaulting purchaser shall not be entitled to any surplus proceeds or profits resulting from any resale of the Property, and the deposit shall be forfeited to the Trustee and all of the expenses of this sale (including attorneys' fees and full commission on the gross sale price) shall be charged against and paid out of the forfeited deposit. Purchaser shall pay all attorneys' fees and costs, and all other damages of any kind or nature, incurred by trustee and the secured party, and their respective agents, employees, successors and assigns, in connection with any such default.

If Trustee is unable to convey title, purchaser's sole remedy at law and in equity shall be limited to a refund of the deposit and the sale shall be considered null and void and of no effect.

Purchaser shall be responsible for obtaining physical possession of the Property. Purchaser assumes the risk of loss or damage to the Property from the date of sale forward.

Trustee reserves the right, in his sole discretion, to reject any and all bids, to withdraw the Property from sale at any time before or at the auction, to extend the time to receive bids, to waive or modify the deposit requirement, to waive or modify the requirement that interest be paid on the unpaid purchase money, and/or to extend the period of time for settlement.

Additional terms may be announced at the sale. Purchaser will be required to execute and deliver to Trustee a contract of the sale at the conclusion of the bidding.

Russell S. Drazin, Trustee

A181, A316, A311, A183, A425, A426, A461, A463, A508



Aug 13, 20, 27 2024 0012466429

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TUESDAY, AUGUST 13, 2024

EZ

CLASSIFIED D9

856 Charles County

GREENSPON MARDER, LLP
201 International Circle, Suite 230
Hunt Valley, MD 21030

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE'S SALE OF IMPROVED REAL PROPERTY KNOWN AS
18268 Piedmont Drive
Cobb Island, MD 20625

By virtue of a power of sale contained in a Deed of Trust from PETER P. KETNER AND CAROLYN K. KETNER, dated June 15, 2007 and recorded in book 06383, page 0149 among the Land Records of CHARLES COUNTY, Maryland, default having occurred thereunder (Foreclosure Case docketed as Case No. C-08-CV-24-000325; Tax ID No. 05-099294) the Substitute Trustee will sell at public auction CHARLES COUNTY courthouse located at 200 CHARLES STREET (IN THE BREEZEWAY BETWEEN CIRCUIT AND DISTRICT COURTS), LA PLATA, MD 20646.

AUGUST 22, 2024 at 12:00 PM

ALL THAT FEE SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND and improvements thereon situated in CHARLES COUNTY, MD and more fully described in above referenced Deed of Trust.

The property will be sold in an "as is" condition and subject to conditions, restrictions and agreements of record affecting the same, if any and with no warranty of any kind.

Terms of Sale: A deposit of \$29,000.00 will be required at the time of sale, such deposit to be in CERTIFIED CHECK OR BY CASHIER'S CHECK, CASH WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. Balance of the purchase price to be paid in cash within ten days of final ratification of sale by the Circuit Court for CHARLES COUNTY. Time is of the essence as to the purchaser. If the purchaser defaults, the deposit shall be forfeited and the property shall be resold at the purchaser's risk and expense. The purchaser waives personal service and accepts service by first class mail and certified mail addressed to the address provided by said Purchaser as identified on the Memorandum of Sale for any Motion or Show Cause Order incident to this sale including a Motion to Default Purchaser and for Resale of the Property. In the event of a resale, the defaulting purchaser shall not be entitled to receive any benefit from the resale, including, but not limited to, additional proceeds or surplus which may arise therefrom. Interest to be paid on the unpaid purchase money at five percent (5%) from the date of sale to the date funds are received by the Substitute Trustee. There will be no abatement of interest in the event additional funds are tendered at the time of sale or any time prior to settlement or if the settlement is delayed for any reason. In the event that the Secured Party executes a forbearance agreement with the borrower(s) described in the above-mentioned Deed of Trust, or allows the borrower(s) to execute their right to reinstate or payoff the subject loan, prior to the sale, with or without the Substitute Trustee's prior knowledge, this Contract shall be null and void and of no effect, and the Purchaser's sole remedy shall be the return of the deposit without interest. Purchaser shall pay for documentary stamps, transfer taxes and settlement expenses. Taxes, ground rent, water, rent, condominium fees and/or homeowner association dues, all public charges/assessments payable on an annual basis, including sanitary and/or metropolitan district charges, if applicable, shall be adjusted to the date of sale and assumed thereafter by the purchaser. Purchaser shall be responsible for obtaining physical possession of the property. Purchaser assumes the risk of loss or damage to the property from the date of sale forward. If the Substitute Trustee is unable to convey insurable title for any reason, the Purchaser's sole remedy in law or equity shall be limited to a refund of the aforementioned deposit without interest. In the event the sale is not ratified for any reason, the Purchaser's sole remedy, at law or equity, is the return of the deposit without interest. (File # 23-003048-01)

NICOLE LIPINSKI, MARC MEDEL,
Substitute Trustees (s)

HARVEY KALISH AUCTIONEERS, LLC
300 E. Joppa Road, Suite 1103
Baltimore, MD 21286
410-769-9797

Aug 6, 13, 20 2024 0012466083
856 Frederick County

856 Frederick County

Brock and Scott, PLLC
5431 Oleander Drive
Wilmington NC, 28403

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE'S SALE OF VALUABLE FEE SIMPLE PROPERTY KNOWN AS
4006 BELGRAVE CIRCLE
Frederick, MD 21704

Under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust to JAMES M. SACK, Trustee(s), dated September 29, 2006, and recorded among the Land Records of FREDERICK COUNTY, MARYLAND in Liber 6287, folio 219, MODIFIED OCTOBER 28, 2008 IN BOOK 6287, PAGE 219, the holder of the indebtedness secured by this Deed of Trust having appointed the undersigned Substitute Trustee, by instrument duly recorded among the aforesaid Land Records, default having occurred under the terms thereof, and at the request of the party secured thereby, the undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction at THE FREDERICK COUNTY COURTHOUSE LOCATED AT 100 W. PATRICK ST., FREDERICK, MD 21701 ON,

AUGUST 28, 2024 at 9:30 AM

ALL THAT FEE SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND and improvements thereon situated in FREDERICK COUNTY, MD and described as follows:

LOT 15019 AS SHOWN AND SET OUT ON A PLAT ENTITLED "FINAL PLAT SECTIONS M-15 AND M-16 LOTS 15012-15020 AND 15022-15026 VILLAGES OF URBANA, URBANA P.U.D." AND RECORDED AMONG THE LAND RECORDS OF FREDERICK COUNTY, MARYLAND IN PLAT BOOK 79 PAGE 8.

The property will be sold in an "AS IS WHERE IS" condition without either express or implied warranty or representation, including but not limited to the description, fitness for a particular purpose or use, structural integrity, physical condition, construction, extent of construction, workmanship, materials, liability, zoning, subdivision, environmental condition, merchantability, compliance with building or housing codes or other laws, ordinances or regulations, or other similar matters, and subject to easements, agreements and restrictions of record which affect the same, if any. The property will be sold subject to all conditions, liens, restrictions and agreements of record affecting same including any condominium and of HOA assessments pursuant to Md Real Property Article 11-110.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of \$48,000.00 payable in certified check or by a cashier's check will be required from purchaser at time of sale, balance in immediately available funds upon final ratification of sale by the Circuit Court of FREDERICK COUNTY, MARYLAND interest to be paid at the rate of 4.25% on unpaid purchase money from date of sale to date of settlement. The secured party herein, if a bidder, shall not be required to post a deposit. Third party purchaser (excluding the secured party) will be required to complete full settlement of the purchase of the property within TEN (10) CALENDAR DAYS of the ratification of the sale by the Circuit Court otherwise the purchaser's deposit shall be forfeited and the property will be resold at the risk and expense of the defaulting purchaser. All other public charges and private charges or assessments, including water/sewer charges, ground rent, taxes if any, to be adjusted to date of sale. Cost of all documentary stamps and transfer taxes and all other costs incident to the settlement shall be borne by the purchaser. If applicable, condominium and/or homeowner association dues and assessments will be adjusted to date of sale. If the sale is rescinded or not ratified for any reason, including post sale lender audit, or the Substitute Trustee is unable to convey insurable title or a resale is to take place for any reason, the purchaser(s) sole remedy in law or equity shall be limited to the refund of the aforementioned deposit. The purchaser waives all rights and claims against the Substitute Trustee whether known or unknown. These provisions shall survive settlement Upon refund of the deposit, this sale shall be void and of no effect, and the purchaser shall have no further claim against the Substitute Trustee. The sale is subject to post-sale review of the status of the loan and that if any agreement to cancel the sale was entered into by the lender and borrower prior to the sale then the sale is void and the purchaser's deposit shall be refunded without interest. Additional terms and conditions, if applicable, maybe announced at the time and date of sale. Sale is subject to the attestation by the Borrower in accordance with Section 5.A of the Governor's order of 10.16.2020. File No. (22-01381)

ROBERT A. OLIVERI, AMANDA WILKINS, PAUL HEINMULLER, JOHN C. HANRAHAN, KRISTOPHER HAWKINS, Substitute Trustees

HARVEY KALISH AUCTIONEERS, LLC
300 E. Joppa Road, Suite 1103
Baltimore, MD 21286
410-769-9797

Aug 13, 20, 27 2024 0012467561
856 Frederick County

Brock and Scott, PLLC
5431 Oleander Drive
Wilmington NC, 28403

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE'S SALE OF VALUABLE FEE SIMPLE PROPERTY KNOWN AS
15 MANDA COURT
Middletown, MD 21769

Under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust to LEO W. DUNN III, Trustee(s), dated August 20, 2015, and recorded among the Land Records of FREDERICK COUNTY, MARYLAND in Liber 10725, folio 223, the holder of the indebtedness secured by this Deed of Trust having appointed the undersigned Substitute Trustee, by instrument duly recorded among the aforesaid Land Records, default having occurred under the terms thereof, and at the request of the party secured thereby, the undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction at THE FREDERICK COUNTY COURTHOUSE LOCATED AT 100 W. PATRICK ST., FREDERICK, MD 21701 ON,

AUGUST 28, 2024 at 9:30 AM

ALL THAT FEE SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND and improvements thereon situated in FREDERICK COUNTY, MD and described as follows:

BEING KNOWN AND DESIGNATED AS LOT 218, SECTION II, BLOCK A, FOXFIELD AT MIDDLETOWN, AS PER PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 52, PAGE 159 AMONG THE LAND RECORDS OF FREDERICK COUNTY, MARYLAND.

The property will be sold in an "AS IS WHERE IS" condition without either express or implied warranty or representation, including but not limited to the description, fitness for a particular purpose or use, structural integrity, physical condition, construction, extent of construction, workmanship, materials, liability, zoning, subdivision, environmental condition, merchantability, compliance with building or housing codes or other laws, ordinances or regulations, or other similar matters, and subject to easements, agreements and restrictions of record which affect the same, if any. The property will be sold subject to all conditions, liens, restrictions and agreements of record affecting same including any condominium and of HOA assessments pursuant to Md Real Property Article 11-110.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of \$31,500.00 payable in certified check or by a cashier's check will be required from purchaser at time of sale, balance in immediately available funds upon final ratification of sale by the Circuit Court of FREDERICK COUNTY, MARYLAND interest to be paid at the rate of 4.125 % on unpaid purchase money from date of sale to date of settlement. The secured party herein, if a bidder, shall not be required to post a deposit. Third party purchaser (excluding the secured party) will be required to complete full settlement of the purchase of the property within TEN (10) CALENDAR DAYS of the ratification of the sale by the Circuit Court otherwise the purchaser's deposit shall be forfeited and the property will be resold at the risk and expense of the defaulting purchaser. All other public charges and private charges or assessments, including water/sewer charges, ground rent, taxes if any, to be adjusted to date of sale. Cost of all documentary stamps and transfer taxes and all other costs incident to the settlement shall be borne by the purchaser. If applicable, condominium and/or homeowner association dues and assessments will be adjusted to date of sale. If the sale is rescinded or not ratified for any reason, including post sale lender audit, or the Substitute Trustee is unable to convey insurable title or a resale is to take place for any reason, the purchaser(s) sole remedy in law or equity shall be limited to the refund of the aforementioned deposit. The purchaser waives all rights and claims against the Substitute Trustee whether known or unknown. These provisions shall survive settlement Upon refund of the deposit, this sale shall be void and of no effect, and the purchaser shall have no further claim against the Substitute Trustee. The sale is subject to post-sale review of the status of the loan and that if any agreement to cancel the sale was entered into by the lender and borrower prior to the sale then the sale is void and the purchaser's deposit shall be refunded without interest. Additional terms and conditions, if applicable, maybe announced at the time and date of sale. Sale is subject to the attestation by the Borrower in accordance with Section 5.A of the Governor's order of 10.16.2020. File No. (23-25736)

BRENNAN FERGUSON, JOHN C. HANRAHAN, JEREMY B. WILKINS, AMANDA WILKINS, ROBERT OLIVERI, PAUL HEINMULLER, Substitute Trustees

HARVEY KALISH AUCTIONEERS, LLC
300 E. Joppa Road, Suite 1103
Baltimore, MD 21286
410-769-9797

Aug 13, 20, 27 2024 001246786
856 Frederick County

The Washington Post

856 Frederick County

BWW Law Group, LLC
6003 Executive Blvd., Suite 101
Rockville, MD 20852
(301) 961-6555

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE'S SALE OF REAL PROPERTY AND ANY IMPROVEMENTS THEREON
324 MOUNTAINEERS WAY
EMMITSBURG, MD 21727

Under a power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust dated November 29, 2017, recorded in Liber 12161, Folio 477 among the Land Records of Frederick County, MD, with an original principal balance of \$306,000.00, default having occurred under the terms thereof, the Sub. Trustees will sell at public auction at the Circuit Court for Frederick County, at the Court House Door, 100 W. Patrick St., Frederick, MD 21701, on

AUGUST 23, 2024 at 2:12 PM

ALL THAT FEE SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND, together with any buildings or improvements thereon located in Frederick County, MD and more fully described in the aforesaid Deed of Trust.

The property, and any improvements thereon, will be sold in an "as is" condition and subject to conditions, restrictions and agreements of record affecting the same, if any, and with no warranty of any kind.

Terms of Sale: A deposit of \$28,000 in the form of certified check, cashier's check or money order will be required of the purchaser at time and place of sale. Balance of the purchase price, together with interest on the unpaid purchase money at the current rate contained in the Deed of Trust Note, or any modifications thereto, from the date of sale to the date funds are received by the Sub. Trustees, payable in cash within ten days of final ratification of the sale by the Circuit Court. There will be no abatement of interest due to the purchaser in the event additional funds are tendered before settlement. TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE FOR THE PURCHASER. Adjustment of all real property taxes, including agricultural taxes, if applicable, and any and all public and/or private charges or assessments, to the extent such amounts survive foreclosure sale, including water/sewer, ground rent and front foot benefit charges, to be adjusted to date of sale and thereafter assumed by purchaser. Purchaser is responsible for any recapture of homestead tax credit. All transfer taxes and recordation taxes shall be paid by Purchaser. The purchaser shall be responsible for the payment of the ground rent escrow, if required. Condominium fees and/or homeowners association dues, if any, shall be assumed by the purchaser from the date of sale. Purchaser is responsible for obtaining physical possession of the property, and assumes risk of loss or damage to the property from the date of sale. The sale is subject to post-sale audit of the status of the loan with the loan servicer including, but not limited to, determination of whether the borrower entered into any repayment agreement, reinstated or paid off the loan prior to the sale. In any such event, this sale shall be null and void, and the Purchaser's sole remedy, in law or equity, shall be the return of the deposit without interest. If purchaser fails to settle within ten days of ratification, subject to order of court, purchaser agrees that property will be resold and entire deposit retained by Sub. Trustees as liquidated damages for all losses occasioned by the purchaser's default and purchaser shall have no further liability. The purchaser waives personal service of any papers filed in connection with its failure to settle within ten days of ratification and expressly agrees to accept service by first class mail at the address provided by the Purchaser as identified on the Memorandum of Sale. The defaulted purchaser shall not be entitled to any surplus proceeds resulting from said resale even if such surplus results from improvements to the property by said defaulted purchaser. Sub. Trustees will convey either marketable or insurable title. If they cannot deliver one or the other, or if ratification of the sale is denied by the Circuit Court for any reason, the Purchaser's sole remedy, at law or equity, is return of the deposit without interest. (Matter No. 368364-1)

Howard N. Bierman, Carrie M. Ward, et al.,
Substitute Trustees

ALEX COOPER auctioneers
908 York Road • Towson, MD 21204 • 410.828.4838
www.alexcooper.com

Aug 6, 13, 20 2024 0012467526
856 Frederick County

Brock and Scott, PLLC
5431 Oleander Drive
Wilmington NC, 28403

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE'S SALE OF VALUABLE FEE SIMPLE PROPERTY KNOWN AS
15 MANDA COURT
Middletown, MD 21769

Under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust dated December 22, 2016, recorded in Liber 11660, Folio 70 among the Land Records of Frederick County, MD, with an original principal balance of \$432,030.00, default having occurred under the terms thereof, the Sub. Trustees will sell at public auction at the Circuit Court for Frederick County, at the Court House Door, 100 W. Patrick St., Frederick, MD 21701, on

AUGUST 23, 2024 at 2:14 PM

ALL THAT FEE SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND, together with any buildings or improvements thereon located in Frederick County, MD and more fully described in the aforesaid Deed of Trust.

The property, and any improvements thereon, will be sold in an "as is" condition and subject to conditions, restrictions and agreements of record affecting the same, if any, and with no warranty of any kind.

Terms of Sale: A deposit of \$43,000 in the form of certified check, cashier's check or money order will be required of the purchaser at time and place of sale. Balance of the purchase price, together with interest on the unpaid purchase money at the current rate contained in the Deed of Trust Note, or any modifications thereto, from the date of sale to the date funds are received by the Sub. Trustees, payable in cash within ten days of final ratification of the sale by the Circuit Court. There will be no abatement of interest due to the purchaser in the event additional funds are tendered before settlement. TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE FOR THE PURCHASER. Adjustment of all real property taxes, including agricultural taxes, if applicable, and any and all public and/or private charges or assessments, to the extent such amounts survive foreclosure sale, including water/sewer, ground rent and front foot benefit charges, to be adjusted to date of sale and thereafter assumed by purchaser. Purchaser is responsible for any recapture of homestead tax credit. All transfer taxes and recordation taxes shall be paid by Purchaser. The purchaser shall be responsible for the payment of the ground rent escrow, if required. Condominium fees and/or homeowners association dues, if any, shall be assumed by the purchaser from the date of sale. Purchaser is responsible for obtaining physical possession of the property, and assumes risk of loss or damage to the property from the date of sale. The sale is subject to post-sale audit of the status of the loan with the loan servicer including, but not limited to, determination of whether the borrower entered into any repayment agreement, reinstated or paid off the loan prior to the sale. In any such event, this sale shall be null and void, and the Purchaser's sole remedy, in law or equity, shall be the return of the deposit without interest. If purchaser fails to settle within ten days of ratification, subject to order of court, purchaser agrees that property will be resold and entire deposit retained by Sub. Trustees as liquidated damages for all losses occasioned by the purchaser's default and purchaser shall have no further liability. The purchaser waives personal service of any papers filed in connection with its failure to settle within ten days of ratification and expressly agrees to accept service by first class mail at the address provided by the Purchaser as identified on the Memorandum of Sale. The defaulted purchaser shall not be entitled to any surplus proceeds resulting from said resale even if such surplus results from improvements to the property by said defaulted purchaser. Sub. Trustees will convey either marketable or insurable title. If they cannot deliver one or the other, or if ratification of the sale is denied by the Circuit Court for any reason, the Purchaser's sole remedy, at law or equity, is return of the deposit without interest. (Matter No. 323803-15)

Howard N. Bierman, Carrie M. Ward, et al.,
Substitute Trustees

ALEX COOPER auctioneers
908 York Road • Towson, MD 21204 • 410.828.4838
www.alexcooper.com

Aug 6, 13, 20 2024 0012467527
856 Frederick County

BWW Law Group, LLC
6003 Executive Blvd., Suite 101
Rockville, MD 20852
(301) 961-6555

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE'S SALE OF REAL PROPERTY AND ANY IMPROVEMENTS THEREON
10501A OLD ANNAPOLIS ROAD
FREDERICK, MD 21701

Under a power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust dated August 31, 2017, recorded in Liber 12105, Folio 13 among the Land Records of Frederick County, MD, with an original principal balance of \$270,655.00, default having occurred under the terms thereof, the Sub. Trustees will sell at public auction at the Circuit Court for Frederick County, at the Court House Door, 100 W. Patrick St., Frederick, MD 21701, on

AUGUST 23, 2024 at 2:19 PM

ALL THAT FEE SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND, together with any buildings or improvements thereon located in Frederick County, MD and more fully described in the aforesaid Deed of Trust. The property, and any improvements thereon, will be sold in an "as is" condition and subject to conditions, restrictions and agreements of record affecting the same, if any, and with no warranty of any kind.

Terms of Sale: A deposit of \$29,000 in the form of certified check, cashier's check or money order will be required of the purchaser at time and place of sale. Balance of the purchase price, together with interest on the unpaid purchase money at the current rate contained in the Deed of Trust Note, or any modifications thereto, from the date of sale to the date funds are received by the Sub. Trustees, payable in cash within ten days of final ratification of the sale by the Circuit Court. There will be no abatement of interest due to the purchaser in the event additional funds are tendered before settlement. TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE FOR THE PURCHASER. Adjustment of all real property taxes, including agricultural taxes, if applicable, and any and all public and/or private charges or assessments, to the extent such amounts survive foreclosure sale, including water/sewer, ground rent and front foot benefit charges, to be adjusted to date of sale and thereafter assumed by purchaser. Purchaser is responsible for any recapture of homestead tax credit. All transfer taxes and recordation taxes shall be paid by Purchaser. The purchaser shall be responsible for the payment of the ground rent escrow, if required. Condominium fees and/or homeowners association dues, if any, shall be assumed by the purchaser from the date of sale. Purchaser is responsible for obtaining physical possession of the property, and assumes risk of loss or damage to the property from the date of sale. The sale is subject to post-sale audit of the status of the loan with the loan servicer including, but not limited to, determination of whether the borrower entered into any repayment agreement, reinstated or paid off the loan prior to the sale. In any such event, this sale shall be null and void, and the Purchaser's sole remedy, in law or equity, shall be the return of the deposit without interest. If purchaser fails to settle within ten days of ratification, subject to order of court, purchaser agrees that property will be resold and entire deposit retained by Sub. Trustees as liquidated damages for all losses occasioned by the purchaser's default and purchaser shall have no further liability. The purchaser waives personal service of any papers filed in connection with its failure to settle within ten days of ratification and expressly agrees to accept service by first class mail at the address provided by the Purchaser as identified on the Memorandum of Sale. The defaulted purchaser shall not be entitled to any surplus proceeds resulting from said resale even if such surplus results from improvements to the property by said defaulted purchaser. Sub. Trustees will convey either marketable or insurable title. If they cannot deliver one or the other, or if ratification of the sale is denied by the Circuit Court for any reason, the Purchaser's sole remedy, at law or equity, is return of the deposit without interest. (Matter No. 22-00217-06)

Diana Theologou, et al., Substitute Trustees

ALEX COOPER auctioneers
908 York Road • Towson, MD 21204 • 410.828.4838
www.alexcooper.com

Aug 6, 13, 20 2024 0012467525
856 Frederick County

856 Frederick County

BWW Law Group, LLC
6003 Executive Blvd., Suite 101
Rockville, MD 20852
(301) 961-6555

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE'S SALE OF REAL PROPERTY AND ANY IMPROVEMENTS THEREON
4313 MILLWOOD ROAD
NEW WINDSOR A/R/T/A MOUNT AIRY, MD 21771

Under a power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust dated June 6, 2012, recorded in Liber 8947, Folio 486 among the Land Records of Frederick County, MD, with an original principal balance of \$353,300.00, default having occurred under the terms thereof, the Sub. Trustees will sell at public auction at the Circuit Court for Frederick County, at the Court House Door, 100 W. Patrick St., Frederick, MD 21701, on

AUGUST 16, 2024 at 9:24 AM

ALL THAT FEE SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND, together with any buildings or improvements thereon located in Frederick County, MD and more fully described in the aforesaid Deed of Trust.

The property, and any improvements thereon, will be sold in an "as is" condition and subject to conditions, restrictions and agreements of record affecting the same, if any, and with no warranty of any kind.

Terms of Sale: A deposit of \$27,000 in the form of certified check, cashier's check or money order will be required of the purchaser at time and place of sale. Balance of the purchase price, together with interest on the unpaid purchase money at the current rate contained in the Deed of Trust Note, or any modifications thereto, from the date of sale to the date funds are received by the Sub. Trustees, payable in cash within ten days of final ratification of the sale by the Circuit Court. There will be no abatement of interest due to the purchaser in the event additional funds are tendered before settlement. TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE FOR THE PURCHASER. Adjustment of all real property taxes, including agricultural taxes, if applicable, and any and all public and/or private charges or assessments, to the extent such amounts survive foreclosure sale, including water/sewer, ground rent and front foot benefit charges, to be adjusted to date of sale and thereafter assumed by purchaser. Purchaser is responsible for any recapture of homestead tax credit. All transfer taxes and recordation taxes shall be paid by Purchaser. The purchaser shall be responsible for the payment of the ground rent escrow, if required. Condominium fees and/or homeowners association dues, if any, shall be assumed by the purchaser from the date of sale. Purchaser is responsible for obtaining physical possession of the property, and assumes risk of loss or damage to the property from the date of sale. The sale is subject to post-sale audit of the status of the loan with the loan servicer including, but not limited to, determination of whether the borrower entered into any repayment agreement, reinstated or paid off the loan prior to the sale. In any such event, this sale shall be null and void, and the Purchaser's sole remedy, in law or equity, shall be the return of the deposit without interest. If purchaser fails to settle within ten days of ratification, subject to order of court, purchaser agrees that property will be resold and entire deposit retained by Sub. Trustees as liquidated damages for all losses occasioned by the purchaser's default and purchaser shall have no further liability. The purchaser waives personal service of any papers filed in connection with its failure to settle within ten days of ratification and expressly agrees to accept service by first class mail at the address provided by the Purchaser as identified on the Memorandum of Sale. The defaulted purchaser shall not be entitled to any surplus proceeds resulting from said resale even if such surplus results from improvements to the property by said defaulted purchaser. Sub. Trustees will convey either marketable or insurable title. If they cannot deliver one or the other, or if ratification of the sale is denied by the Circuit Court for any reason, the Purchaser's sole remedy, at law or equity, is return of the deposit without interest. (Matter No. 368171-1)

Howard N. Bierman, Carrie M. Ward, et al.,
Substitute Trustees

ALEX COOPER auctioneers
908 York Road • Towson, MD 21204 • 410.828.4838
www.alexcooper.com

Jul 30, Aug 6, 13 2024 0012466700
856 Frederick County

McCabe, Weisberg & Conway, LLC
312 Marshall Avenue, Suite 800
Laurel, MD 20707
www.mwc-law.com

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE'S SALE OF IMPROVED REAL PROPERTY
5204 MUIRFIELD DRIVE
JUMASVILLE, MD 21754

Under a power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust from Ernest K. Amegashie and Julie M. Amegashie, dated May 11, 2005 and recorded in Liber 5434, folio 499 among the Land Records of Frederick County, MD, default having occurred under the terms thereof and at the request of the parties secured thereby, the undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction at the Circuit Court for Frederick County, at the Court House Door, 100 W. Patrick St., Frederick, MD 21701, on

AUGUST 16, 2024 at 9:15 AM

ALL THAT FEE SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND AND THE IMPROVEMENTS THEREON situated in Frederick County, Maryland and more fully described in the aforesaid Deed of Trust. The property is improved by a dwelling.

The property will be sold in an "as is" condition and subject to conditions, restrictions, easements, encumbrances and agreements of record affecting the subject property, if any, and with no warranty of any kind.

Terms of Sale: A deposit in the form of cashier's or certified check or in such other form as the Subst. Trustee may determine, of the purchase price, for \$32,000 at the time of sale. If the noteholder and/or servicer is the successful bidder, the deposit requirement is waived. Balance of the purchase price is to be paid within ten (10) days of the final ratification of the sale by the Circuit Court for Frederick County, Maryland. Interest is to be paid on the unpaid purchase price at the rate of 5.875% per annum from date of sale to the date the funds are received in the office of the Substitute Trustee, if the property is purchased by an entity other than the noteholder and/or servicer. If payment of the balance does not occur within ten (10) days of ratification, the deposit will be forfeited as liquidated damages. The purchaser agrees that the property may be resold pursuant to an order of court, waives personal service upon themselves and/or any principal or corporate designee of any documents filed regarding the failure to pay the purchase price within ten (10) days of ratification and expressly agrees to accept service by first class mail of said documents at the address provided by the purchaser in the Memorandum of Sale. The purchaser will not be entitled to any surplus or profits arising from the resale even if they are the result of improvements made by the purchaser. There will be no abatement of interest due from the purchaser in the event settlement is delayed for any reason. Taxes, ground rent, water rent, and all other public charges and assessments payable on an annual basis, including sanitary and/or metropolitan district charges, and front foot benefit charges, if applicable, to be adjusted for the current year to the date of sale, and assumed thereafter by the purchaser. Condominium fees and/or homeowners association dues, if any, shall be assumed by the purchaser from the date of sale. The purchaser shall be responsible for the payment of the ground rent escrow, if required. Cost of all documentary stamps, transfer taxes (including agricultural transfer taxes, if applicable), and all settlement charges shall be borne by the purchaser. The sale is subject to a post sale audit of the loan, including but not limited to an analysis of whether the borrower entered into a loan modification agreement, filed bankruptcy, reinstated or paid off the loan prior to the sale. The Substitute Trustee will convey either insurable or marketable title. If the Substitute Trustee is unable to convey insurable or marketable title or, the post sale audit concludes that the sale should not have occurred, or the sale is not ratified by the court for any reason, the purchaser's sole remedy in law or equity shall be limited to the refund of the deposit without interest even if the purchaser has made improvements to the property. Upon refund of the deposit, the sale shall be void and of no effect, and the purchaser shall have no further claim against the Substitute Trustee. Purchaser shall be responsible for obtaining physical possession of the property. The purchaser at the foreclosure sale shall assume the risk of loss for the property immediately after the sale. (Matter #24-600295).

Laura H. G. O'Sullivan, et al., Substitute Trustees

ALEX COOPER auctioneers
908 York Road • Towson, MD 21204 • 410.828.4838
www.alexcooper.com

Jul 30, Aug 6, 13 2024 0012466802
856 Frederick County

856 Frederick County

BWW Law Group, LLC
6003 Executive Blvd., Suite 101
Rockville, MD 20852
(301) 961-6555

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE'S SALE OF REAL PROPERTY AND ANY IMPROVEMENTS THEREON
2607 WARREN WAY, UNIT #43
FREDERICK, MD 21701

Under a power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust dated February 28, 2019, recorded in Liber 12866, Folio 254 among the Land Records of Frederick County, MD, with an original principal balance of \$213,069.00, default having occurred under the terms thereof, the Sub. Trustees will sell at public auction at the Circuit Court for Frederick County, at the Court House Door, 100 W. Patrick St., Frederick, MD 21701, on

AUGUST 16, 2024 at 9:22 AM

ALL THAT FEE SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND, together with any buildings or improvements thereon located in Frederick County, MD and described as "Unit numbered 4-3 in a condominium known as "Condominium Plat-Phase 4, Building 4, The Briarwood Condominium being part of Section 2, Plat 1 Tuscarora Knolls, Plat Book 45, Page 93" and more fully described in the aforesaid Deed of Trust.

The property, and any improvements thereon, will be sold in an "as is" condition and subject to conditions, restrictions and agreements of record affecting the same, if any, and with no warranty of any kind.

Terms of Sale: A deposit of \$20,000 in the form of certified check, cashier's check or money order will be required of the purchaser at time and place of sale. Balance of the purchase price, together with interest on the unpaid purchase money at the current rate contained in the Deed of Trust Note, or any modifications thereto, from the date of sale to the date funds are received by the Sub. Trustees, payable in cash within ten days of final ratification of the sale by the Circuit Court. There will be no abatement of interest due to the purchaser in the event additional funds are tendered before settlement. TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE FOR THE PURCHASER. Adjustment of all real property taxes, including agricultural taxes, if applicable, and any and all public and/or private charges or assessments, to the extent such amounts survive foreclosure sale, including water/sewer, ground rent and front foot benefit charges, to be adjusted to date of sale and thereafter assumed by purchaser. Purchaser is responsible for any recapture of homestead tax credit. All transfer taxes and recordation taxes shall be paid by Purchaser. The purchaser shall be responsible for the payment of the ground rent escrow, if required. Condominium fees and/or homeowners association dues, if any, shall be assumed by the purchaser from the date of sale. Purchaser is responsible for obtaining physical possession of the property, and assumes risk of loss or damage to the property from the date of sale. The sale is subject

After Paris, it's off to Athens for Landi — the one in Georgia

LANDI FROM D1

And in a way, that's why it was time to move on.

"I think I've done everything I could do in elite and beyond what I could have ever imagined as a little French girl in a little town," Landi said.

Two decades ago, Cecile and Laurent, a former French national team member, moved to pursue a coaching career in the United States. Without knowing English, they landed in Norman, Okla., and eventually headed to the Dallas area to work at WOGA, a prominent club. There, the Landis coached 2016 Olympian Madison Kocian and world championships team member Alyssa Baumann. They had planned to open their own gym when, in 2017, Biles decided to return to training and needed new coaches. Seven years and two Olympics later, Landi is set to take on a different type of challenge at Georgia.

"She's got that dreamer's mentality where she always wants to push herself to learn and grow," said Janelle McDonald, the gymnastics coach at UCLA and a close friend.

Landi had known for a while that she wanted to try coaching at the college level, which features slightly easier routines but a much different team-oriented competition format. She just didn't know when and where.

In April, Georgia fired its coach, 2004 Olympian Courtney Kupets Carter. Then assistant Ryan Roberts applied for the top job. He had worked at WOGA — albeit at the club's other location — when Landi coached there, and in his interview, unbeknownst to Landi, he said he wanted Landi to join him in Athens. The athletic director then pitched the idea of Landi and Roberts sharing the role as co-head coaches.

Georgia was once the standard-bearer in college gymnastics, winning five straight national championships from 2005 to 2009. The team's next two coaches, neither lasting more than five years, mustered some top-10 finishes but nothing close to the previous heights. The school then brought in Kupets Carter, the star gymnast from that dominant era, but the program fell further, ending the season ranked 18th or



JAMIE SQUIRE/GETTY IMAGES

Cecile Landi capped her elite coaching career — for now — with Olympic success in Paris. She will co-coach at Georgia this coming season.

lower the past four years.

Now Landi and Roberts will try to revive a dormant dynasty.

"I want to win championships," Roberts said. "I want to win nationals. Who better to do it than somebody who's done it on the biggest stage in the world?"

For Landi, it all happened fast. When Georgia fired Kupets Carter, Landi was in Italy, coaching two of her gymnasts at an international competition. Landi initially talked with Roberts as a concerned club coach: A gymnast from World Champions Centre who graduates next year is committed to Georgia. And as Roberts pursued the head coaching job, Landi said she could be a reference for him.

Soon after, Roberts called Landi with his plan: He wanted to work together. Roberts respected

Landi's technical acumen and her athlete-centric approach. Roberts, previously an assistant at Alabama, had reached out to Landi several years ago when the Crimson Tide needed a coach — "She was my first in mind at that point, too," Roberts said — but the timing wasn't right.

Even when Roberts called about the Georgia job, Landi said her first reaction was: "Ha, good one. You know I can't go now."

Landi initially believed next year would make sense for a potential career move because her daughter has one more year of high school.

But when Landi talked with Georgia officials as the Olympic season was just about to ramp up, her husband listened and said: "Just accept. Why would you say no?" As a family, the Landis agreed to go for it.

"I don't think I'll get that good of an opportunity anytime soon," Landi said. "Simone was the first one to tell me: 'I'm so happy for you. You need to go.'"

Laurent will stay in the Houston area with Juliette and remain at World Champions Centre a bit longer as his wife begins the new role. Then he will move to Athens, with his next job uncertain.

Just after Landi told her gymnasts in an emotional meeting, Georgia announced the bold, attention-grabbing hire. At the time, Landi had another four months before her NCAA role began, but now she will begin preparing for the college season, which starts in January.

Roberts admitted the co-head coach setup is a bit "unorthodox," though he believes "this is going to be a better model than what maybe either of us could do

alone."

Landi reportedly will make \$340,000 per year, and Roberts will earn \$265,000 — both higher than Kupets Carter's salary and an indication of Georgia's ambition to resurrect its program.

"What they need right now is a strong leader that will bring everybody together, understanding the goal, understanding the purpose and the reason," said Ashlyn Broussard, a gymnast who competed at Georgia from 2014 to 2017 after training with the Landis at the club level. "I really think Cecile's going to be able to do that."

Most NCAA head coaches rise from the assistant ranks, and many were college gymnasts themselves. Recruiting will be a new challenge for Landi, and in college, she will take on more administrative work. There's

strategy when assembling line-ups on each apparatus, plus the need to keep the noncompeting gymnasts happy and invested in their roles. Gymnastics-wise, the NCAA version of the sport is similar to level 10, the top tier in the development program — and Landi has coached many of those athletes — only with some nuance in developing routines that lend themselves to perfect execution, which is a much bigger focus in college than in elite.

McDonald, the UCLA coach, said NCAA gymnastics aligns with Landi's "beliefs and her intentions behind why she coaches," noting how Landi wants athletes to work in a positive environment and to have a voice.

Joselyn Roberson, an alternate for the Olympic team, said the Landis fight for their gymnasts. And in Paris, Cecile Landi successfully appealed the score of Chile, who climbed to third place in the floor final, only for officials to later rule the inquiry was invalid because it was submitted slightly too late and Chile must return the bronze medal. USA Gymnastics has continued to push back on that.

"Those are her girls, and she's going to bat for them all the time," Roberson's father, Jeff, said in an interview last year.

Several athletes described the Landis as parental figures. Briley Casanova, a former U.S. national team member who trained with them for years, described Cecile as "the mom that you go to when you're just having a hard day, and she'll listen to you, and she'll try to help you work through things." Casanova, now 29, said: "She is not ego-driven. She really does want the best for her athletes."

For Landi, the NCAA might force her to adapt in some ways. Coaching Biles to Olympic gold doesn't guarantee Landi will be just as successful in another realm of the sport. But it's still gymnastics. Preparing a gymnast to hit a beam routine under pressure at the Olympics isn't much different from helping a college athlete thrive at her biggest competition of the season. And that's what gives Roberts confidence.

"She's done everything else in the sport, so there's one more thing," Roberts said. "Win a national championship in college."

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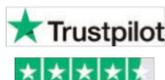
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MEDICAL MYSTERIES

Was she having a psychotic break?

No one could figure out what was triggering her sudden outbursts and confusion

BY SANDRA G. BOODMAN

After a long day teaching high school English, Lindsay Trainor was feeling tired, out of sorts and in no mood to wait. When she arrived at her boyfriend's house around 7:30 p.m. expecting that the Thai food they'd agreed upon would be there, Trainor said she "went ballistic" after learning he'd waited for her arrival to order.

"I remember saying, 'It's fine, I guess I'll never eat anything ever again!' and I ran up the stairs to the bedroom and slammed the door," Trainor said. Her boyfriend, now husband, quickly headed out to pick up dinner.

After they'd eaten, Trainor was abashed and apologetic. "I'm not sure what happened," she remembers telling him.

Seven years later, that 2016 incident, which the Northern Virginia couple had regarded as a funny story, assumed new meaning as Trainor's erratic outbursts occurred more frequently, becoming increasingly bizarre and sometimes frightening. At one point Trainor feared she was experiencing a psychotic break; her husband, Bryan, wondered whether she was a secret drinker.

In May 2023, her unpredictable behavior was traced to an unusual cause for which she underwent treatment that put an end to the episodes, presumably for good.

"It took a while," said Trainor, now 41, whose treatment involved months of close monitoring, "but I feel great now."

Meltdown in Ikea

The first episode occurred in the summer of 2015, shortly after Trainor moved from New England to the D.C. area. She and her cousin were standing in the checkout line at Ikea in Northern Virginia when Trainor suddenly became

SEE **MEDICAL MYSTERIES** ON E4

ILLUSTRATION BY BIANCA BAGNARELLI FOR THE WASHINGTON POST



Cognitive exams aren't the final word on memory

BY STEVEN PETROW

Twenty years ago, at a particularly stressful time in my mid-40s, I thought I was losing my mind — or at least my memory. I sometimes had trouble coming up with words — initially names, then simple phrases (like referring to the proverbial "night owl" as a "night bird"). Each flub made me anxious, which then worsened my memory issues. Listening to my inner hypochondriac, I became convinced I had a brain tumor. I went to see my primary-care doctor.

She asked me a series of questions. "What year is it?" "What's today's date?" "Who's the president?" I was batting 1.000 until she asked me to spell "w-o-r-l-d" backward, when I faltered. My pulse began to race. "Can you count backwards from 100 by sevens?" she queried me. I got to 93 but could go no further, which is when I broke down sobbing, convinced I'd been right about my diagnosis.

SEE **MEMORY** ON E5

WELL+BEING

After mammograms, a tense wait for more tests

Lenore Fuscillo Baker won't quickly forget that day in 2020 when she opened what she thought would be a routine letter from her radiology facility telling her that a recent screening mammogram had been fine. Instead, it said the test had found an "abnormality" and told her to return for more imaging.

It was 10 days before she could get an appointment — 10 days of anxiety when she could think of little else. "I totally freaked out. I was sure I had breast cancer," says Baker, 56, a yoga and Pilates teacher who owns a studio in Silver Spring, Md. "Will I need chemo? Sur-

gery? Who will teach my classes? I put my life on hold and wouldn't make any plans beyond the date of that appointment. It really took me over."

Tense with fear, she brought her husband along for support. "I couldn't sit there alone and have them tell me I have cancer," she says. Happily, the abnormality turned out to be a benign cyst. "The relief was enormous," she says.

Mammogram callbacks are common — about 10 out of every 100 women are told they need more imaging after an initial screening, according to the American Cancer Society.

BY MARLENE CIMONS

SEE **MAMMOGRAM** ON E4

HIDDEN PLANET

The surprisingly complex ancestor of all life on Earth. E2

NUTRITION

It's corn season. What to know about its health value. E3



ISTOCK/WASHINGTON POST ILLUSTRATION

ASK A DOCTOR

How an oncologist tries to reduce his own cancer risk. E3

IS IT TRUE?

Can you smell your own bad breath? E6

Learning to live after a tumor changed my life

BY SUNDAS HASHMI

Walking home after dropping off my daughter at school a few months ago, I suddenly lost my balance. With a sickening thud, I was splayed across the sidewalk. Concerned passersby stopped to see whether I was okay. "All good!" I said cheerfully as I collected myself and my dignity and resumed my walk.

I'm pretty used to falling these days. To be honest, it feels miraculous that I'm walking at all.

In early 2020, I was frying spring rolls for a dinner party when everything went dark. I woke up in a hospital bed and was told I had suffered a grand mal seizure. A doctor explained it was the result of a brain tumor. I was 37 and in otherwise perfect health. Two weeks later, I was tearfully hugging my husband and two young children before heading into surgery to remove the cancer.

Surgery rarely cures malignant brain tumors. SEE **TUMOR** ON E5

HIDDEN PLANET



SCIENCE GRAPHIC DESIGN

An illustration of life evolving after Earth's formation. The Last Universal Common Ancestor may have given rise to all life we know today.

The tiny origins of life on Earth

Microbe may have survived tumultuous period and evolved more quickly than previously thought

BY KASHA PATEL

It may be hard to imagine complicated life forms on early Earth. Oxygen was low and asteroids may have been pelting the baby planet's surface. Despite those harsh conditions, a microbe may have persisted, giving rise to all life we see today.

This is the Last Universal Common Ancestor, or LUCA.

In the most extensive analysis of the organism to date, scientists propose in a new study that this hypothesized ancestor was more sophisticated than previously known — thought to possess an immune system to fight off viruses, for instance.

The team said LUCA appeared around 4.2 billion years ago, shortly after Earth was thought to be habitable, suggesting it evolved even quicker than previous estimates and survived through tumultuous times on the planet. The findings could help us understand more about life on this planet and others: What if it doesn't take long to kick-start life?

"All life on Earth is related, from all animals, plants, fungi, protists to every single type of bacteria that exists. They all have this common ancestor," said Edmund Moody, lead author of the new study. "We have this idea that this was a fairly complex organism, already possibly by the time of like 4.2 billion years ago."

A fast evolution

Scientists as far back as biologist Charles Darwin have proposed that all living things evolved from a common origin, which sits at the base of the family tree of life. The organism would possess genes and components present in all living forms today, such as ribosomes, certain proteins or enzymes important for energy, Moody said.

But LUCA may have been more complex than they previously thought, the authors found. They inferred it had an immune system that fought viruses and found evidence suggesting it contained genes to protect against ultraviolet damage and lived at the ocean surface.

Our late ancestor might not



ISTOCK

Asteroids and comets may have battered Earth 4.1 billion to 3.8 billion years ago — and a microbe, LUCA, may have persisted.

have been alone either, Moody said. Although not a direct conclusion from the study, he suggested LUCA probably would have been part of an early ecosystem of many organisms, competing to stay alive. But the other organisms probably died out, which would explain why they wouldn't be represented in any modern genomes or fossils.

"LUCA was a very complex cell, with a genome similar to modern bacteria (which we think of as simple, but from a molecular biology perspective are very complex)," Aaron Goldman, a biologist at Oberlin College who was not involved in the study, said in an email. He called the study a "breakthrough in the discipline" in a review article of the study.

Previous research dated LUCA as young as 3.5 or 3.8 billion years ago, so the new timeline accelerates evolution by a few hundred million years.

Although Earth was formed nearly 4.6 billion years ago, scientists think our planet wasn't cool enough for habitable environments until about 4.3 to 4.4 billion years ago, said Goldman. If LUCA was indeed around 4.2 billion years ago, as the study suggests, this dating would rewrite our understanding of how fast life can emerge under the right conditions.

"That is a lot of evolution to happen within 100 million years or less," Goldman said.

The new timeline and details can be chalked up to more advanced analysis methods available today. In the new study, the team of 19 scientists used a combination of genetic analysis and fossil records to determine the age of LUCA and its characteristics. They first compared genes in modern genomes of bacteria and archaea to determine which gene families were present in LUCA. They estimated LUCA's genome size, the number of proteins it encoded and its metabolism.

"The computational model is kind of working its way backwards to say that these things are slightly different and, based on our model of molecular evolution, they probably share a common ancestor," Moody said. "You work all the way back and eventually you're going to get a common ancestor of everything, which is LUCA."

The team separately performed an analysis using a much smaller number of genes that they thought duplicated before LUCA, which they calibrated with fossils to get its age.

Moody said the research is probably the "most ambitious" attempt to characterize and date LUCA.

Could LUCA have survived during the late heavy bombardment?

Not everyone is convinced of this new timeline and depiction of

LUCA.

Patrick Forterre, a researcher at the Pasteur Institute who was not involved in the study, said "the age indicated by the authors means that LUCA lived during the early heavy bombardment," a hypothesized violent period in Earth's history around 4.1 billion to 3.8 billion years ago — when asteroids and comets battered the planet. Forterre said it seemed very unlikely to him that LUCA would survive such harsh conditions.

Some scientists have said that the heavy bombardment may never have occurred. Or perhaps the heavy bombardment stage wasn't "necessarily a planet-sterilizing event," said Moody. "I think that's an active area of research."

In fact, research released in July suggested that organisms around that time could have received the necessary ingredients for life through lightning hitting the ground. Mimicking cloud-to-ground lightning in a lab experiment, scientists found that carbon and nitrogen in the air were converted into biologically useful molecules in high enough concentrations to spark or sustain life on Earth at that time.

Haihui Joy Jiang, lead author of the July study and a researcher at Harvard University, didn't comment whether her study supported this new LUCA theory but said this energy source could have been in play more than 4 billion years ago. That date matches up with the revised age of LUCA.

"It's perfectly compatible with our reconstruction of LUCA because LUCA would have relied upon things like lightning to produce nitrogen," Moody said of the new research. "If LUCA was around at that time, it would have absolutely been gobbling that up and using that to make its DNA and its proteins."

If such advanced organisms could find ways to survive early in Earth's history, we could be more confident in our hunt for life on other planets.

"The chances of an origin of life on any planet might be higher than we previously thought as long as the right conditions are met," said Goldman.

SCIENCE NEWS

Fossils suggest that even smaller 'hobbits' roamed an Indonesian island 700,000 years ago

BY ADITHI RAMAKRISHNAN

Twenty years ago on an Indonesian island, scientists discovered fossils of an early human species that stood at about 3½ feet tall — earning them the nickname "hobbits."

Now a new study suggests ancestors of the hobbits were slightly shorter.

"We did not expect that we would find smaller individuals from such an old site," study co-author Yousuke Kaifu of the University of Tokyo said in an email.

The original hobbit fossils date back to between 60,000 and 100,000 years ago. The new fossils were excavated at a site called Mata Menge, about 45 miles from the cave where the first hobbit remains were uncovered.

In 2016, researchers suspected the earlier relatives could be shorter than the hobbits after studying a jawbone and teeth collected from the new site. Further analysis of a tiny arm bone fragment and teeth suggests the ancestors were 2.4 inches shorter and existed 700,000 years ago.

"They've convincingly shown

that these were very small individuals," said Dean Falk, an evolutionary anthropologist at Florida State University who was not involved with the research.

The findings were published in the journal *Nature Communications*.

Researchers have debated how the hobbits — named *Homo floresiensis* after the remote Indonesian island of Flores — evolved to be so small and where they fall in the human evolutionary story. They're thought to be among the last early human species to go extinct.

Scientists don't yet know whether the hobbits shrank from an earlier, taller human species called *Homo erectus* that lived in the area, or from an even more primitive human predecessor. More research — and fossils — are needed to pin down the hobbits' place in human evolution, said Matt Tocheri, an anthropologist at Canada's Lakehead University.

"This question remains unanswered and will continue to be a focus of research for some time to come," Tocheri, who was not involved with the research, said in an email.

— Associated Press



YOUSUKE KAIFU/AP

Analysis of an arm bone fragment found on the Indonesian island of Flores gave new clues about hobbit ancestors.

SCIENCE SCAN

CLIMATE

Tropical glaciers are melting as a result of 'unprecedented' warming, researchers find

BY ERIN BLAKEMORE

Tropical glaciers are expected to retreat in a warming world. Now, a new analysis suggests these glaciers, located at high altitudes in the Andes Mountains, are smaller than they've been since the last major ice age — an alarming milestone that could portend future glacial melting worldwide.

Publishing in the journal *Science*, an international team of researchers write that the bedrock now exposed at the margins of four such glaciers in the Andes has not seen the light of day since more than 11,700 years ago. That's when the last major ice age ended, beginning the current geological epoch known as the Holocene.

The researchers measured beryllium-10 and carbon-14 concentrations in the recently exposed rock to determine the last time the rocks were exposed. Both are formed when cosmic rays penetrate Earth's atmosphere and interact with the elements that make up Earth's surface. These long-lived isotopes accumulate in rocks and help scientists track the last time the rock was exposed.

"We found essentially no beryllium-10 or radiocarbon-14 in any of the 18 bedrock samples we measured in front of four tropical glaciers," Andrew Gorin, one of the researchers, said in a news release. "That tells us there was never any significant prior exposure to cosmic radiation since these glaciers formed during the last ice age."

Recent tropical Andean glacier retreat is unprecedented in the Holocene

Science

The researchers write that other explanations, such as the glaciers being extremely susceptible to erosion, seem unlikely. Instead, they attribute the lack of beryllium-10 and radiocarbon-14 as evidence of "unprecedented" tropical warmth and global warming that has caused the glacier's ice cover to melt.

The glaciers may serve as a "canary in the coal mine," they say—a warning that global warming has already raised Earth's temperature by 1.5 or 2 degrees Celsius and that more melting is at hand for other glaciers worldwide.

On the hunt for fireflies' glow before it flickers out

BY SETH BORENSTEIN

DELAWARE SEASHORE STATE PARK, DEL. — On a muggy July evening, Delaware state biologist Jason Davis is doing what kids have done for ages: Trying to catch a firefly. It's nowhere near as easy as the summer evenings of his own childhood, with only a few in this large wetland between a bay and the Atlantic Ocean.

Davis sees the double flash of a male and chases after it. It zags west. Davis follows. It zigs back east. Davis says the bug seems to be toying with him: "I think they're having fun." Finally, he flicks a long net to snare what some people call a lightning bug.

The firefly that Davis chased, the Bethany Beach firefly, is so rare that it's likely to become the first of America's fireflies to be put on the Endangered Species List later this year, experts said.

It's in trouble due to rising seas from climate change and rising housing developments. Davis and others estimate that no more than 1,000 are left.

For many Americans, the flash of the firefly calls up memories of summer childhood evenings gone by — and now, the worry that the bugs are disappearing.

Fireflies once seemed plentiful and cool, easy to catch and watch, serving as an introduction to the world of nature around us. In the past few years, entomologists kept hearing anecdotal reports of fewer fireflies, leading to fears that the summer flash was fading with habitat loss, pesticides, light pollution and climate change.

But they had no data. And the most common firefly, nicknamed the Big Dipper because of its swooping flight path, is thriving. The fireflies of many Eastern and Midwestern childhoods "have

survived everything we can throw at them," said Tufts University biologist and firefly expert Sara Lewis.

But other species are troubled, and the Bethany Beach type isn't the only one at risk of blinking out for good.

"They're too important for us to lose, but they're too small for us to notice," said Sergio Henriques, invertebrate conservation coordinator at the Indianapolis Zoo. He's been on his own hunt for a particular species of ghost firefly that hasn't been seen for 35 years.

Fireflies flash or glow to warn other creatures that they are too toxic to eat, and they also light up seeking sex, scientists said. The males flash their pick-up lines and the females answer back, with each species having a special flash and color pattern and time they fly that helps to identify them.

The Smoky Mountains have *Photinus carolinus* fireflies that have become a tourist attraction with their tendency to flash in unison.

Some fireflies — nicknamed femme fatale — mimic another species' light pattern to attract males, kill and eat them, Lewis said.

Climate change is another worry for fireflies, Lewis said. In Europe and elsewhere, fireflies that often need wetlands are being harmed by long droughts, she said.

Davis thinks climate change's rising seas will eventually wipe out the Bethany Beach firefly's habitat. But he and others think the firefly will be pushed out even sooner by people building homes in the few places the bugs can live.

— Associated Press



IVAN ALVARADO/REUTERS

A view of the Iver glacier, close to the El Plomo summit in the Andes Mountains in Chile, seen in April.

HEALTH & SCIENCE

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BIG NUMBER

40 percent

Women who have not been very physically active over the years were 40 percent more likely to experience a fall when they reached their 70s, according to new research published in the British Journal of Sports Medicine. The study involved more than 11,700 participants (with an average age of 54) in the Australian Longitudinal Study on Women's Health, which has been following the health of over 57,000 Australian women in four age cohorts. For this study, which lasted 18 years, women born from 1946 to 1951 reported every three years how much exercise they had been getting. That level of weekly physical activity participation was based on the total of three types of exercise: walking briskly and moderate and vigorous leisure activity.

When participants were ages 68 to 73, they were also asked about falls and related injuries they had experienced. In addition to the higher risk of falls for women who generally didn't get much exercise (less than 100 minutes per week), there was a 38 percent increased risk for women who had high levels of physical activity around age 49 (on average about 400 minutes per week) but then decreasing levels from age 55 onward. To protect against falls, exercise must be ongoing, the researchers concluded. And, they add, to promote that goal, older adults should aim for more than 150 minutes of exercise per week.

"All falls, even those that don't result in injury, can leave older adults feeling scared of falling again," one of the study's authors, Wing Kwok, a researcher from the University of Sydney, said in an email, "making it difficult for them to live independently and potentially stopping them from doing the activities they enjoy." When people avoid activities and exercise, she said, it can cause their physical health to decline even further. And as the study found, this creates a vicious cycle in which falls and injuries can happen again. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, falls were a leading cause of injury for U.S. adults age 65 and older and in 2021 caused more than 38,000 deaths.

— Ian McMahan

HEALTH NEWS

Survey shows small gains in high-schoolers' mental health, but many still feel hopeless

BY CARLA K. JOHNSON

There are small signs of improvement in the mental health of U.S. teenagers, a government survey released last week said, but the share of students — particularly girls — feeling sad and hopeless remained high.

From 2021 to 2023, the portion of high school students who reported feelings of persistent sadness or hopelessness declined from 42 percent to 40 percent, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report. More than 20,000 students were surveyed at school in the spring of 2023.

Among girls, the percentage reporting persistent sadness or hopelessness fell from 57 percent to 53 percent. The share of girls reporting they had seriously considered attempting suicide edged downward from 30 percent to 27 percent.

The covid-19 pandemic disrupted many school activities, increased isolation among youths and may have contributed to the 2021 findings on mental health. But long-term trends also reflect

a worsening of mental health among teenagers, particularly girls.

Social media's emphasis on appearance and body image contributes to the pressures on girls' mental health, said Anisha Abraham of Children's National Hospital in D.C., a spokesperson for the American Academy of Pediatrics.

In 2023, 77 percent of students said they used social media several times a day, with girls more likely than boys to use social media that often. Sixteen percent of high school students said they'd been electronically bullied during the past year through texting, Instagram, Facebook or other social media. Girls and LGBTQ+ students were more likely to report electronic bullying.

"Open conversations at home with caregivers and parents are really important," Abraham said. Parents who notice teens feeling hopeless or pulling away from normal activities should take those signals seriously and make sure they "get in for counseling or further screening."

— Associated Press

HEALTH SCAN

VACCINES

Childhood immunizations lag worldwide, data suggests, with measles coverage a top concern

BY ERIN BLAKEMORE

Childhood immunizations save lives by protecting babies and children from once-common diseases like measles and diphtheria. But progress toward global immunization goals has stalled, according to recent World Health Organization and UNICEF estimates, suggesting such immunizations have not rebounded since the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic.

The data shows that the number of children worldwide who have not received a single dose of the DPT (diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis) vaccine increased from 13.9 million in 2022 to 14.5 million in 2023. Measles vaccine coverage has stalled, too, with 22.2 million children unvaccinated in 2023. That amounts to an 83 percent worldwide coverage rate, well short of the 95 percent necessary for population-wide immunity to measles.

Vaccine coverage of children varies by region: More than half of the children who have not had a single dose of childhood vaccines live in Nigeria, India, Ethiopia, Democratic Republic of Congo,

Sudan, Indonesia and Yemen.

The incomplete coverage for measles is of particular concern because of its high transmissibility, officials say. In the past five years, officials say, 103 countries home to about three-quarters of the world's infants have experienced widespread measles outbreaks.

"This is a solvable problem," WHO Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said in a news release. "Measles vaccine is cheap and can be delivered even in the most difficult places. WHO is committed to working with all our partners to support countries to close these gaps and protect the most at-risk children as quickly as possible."

The gaps persist despite gains in some areas, such as increased coverage of HPV vaccine, which protects against cervical and other cancers, among adolescent girls worldwide, and progress in overall vaccination rates in low-income countries and countries in the WHO's African region. Worldwide immunization goals call for 90 percent coverage for all childhood vaccines by 2030.



FIRDIA LISNAWATI/AP

A child receives a drop of polio vaccine from a medical worker during an immunization campaign in Bali, Indonesia, last month.

FROM CONSUMER REPORTS

On or off the cob, corn is good for you

BY LARISSA ZIMBEROFF

Corn is one of nature's curiosities in that it's both a grain and a vegetable. While most of the year finds us buying canned or frozen corn, summer is when we're reminded how phenomenal fresh corn tastes.

Because of its dual function, you'll find corn in virtually everything at the supermarket. If you look closely at labels, you'll see it formulated into cereal, beer, crackers, chips and more. We eat a lot of corn but not nearly enough of it in vegetable form, and it's a vegetable that deserves more space in our diets.

Corn's nutrition and health benefits

Sweet corn is a starchy vegetable, with a midsize ear of corn on the cob supplying about 90 calories and 20 grams of carbs. That's more calories and carbs than vegetables such as broccoli, cauliflower or carrots, but you get plenty of health benefits from eating corn.

Its biggest nutritional boon is serving as an excellent source of lutein and zeaxanthin, which give the kernels their yellow color. (White corn has very little lutein and zeaxanthin.) These two antioxidants are often grouped together, but many foods that are considered good sources, such as leafy greens, are actually rich in only one or the other. Corn, however, contains good amounts of both.

Lutein and zeaxanthin are extremely important for eye health. They're deposited in the retina, especially in a small section in the center called the macula, where they absorb blue light, protecting cells in that part of the eye from damage. Having adequate lutein and zeaxanthin in your diet helps reduce the risk of macular degeneration, a disease that causes loss of central vision.

Corn is a valuable source of plant protein, too, says Whitney Linsenmeyer, assistant professor of nutrition and dietetics at St. Louis University. One serving — half a cup of canned or frozen or one medium ear of corn — pro-



MAANSI SRIVASTAVA FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Sweet corn is an excellent source of lutein and zeaxanthin, which are important for eye health.

vides about 3.5 grams of protein. That's less than what you'd get from beans or peas, but it's still "a noteworthy amount," she says.

Plus, a serving has 2 grams of fiber, and that combined with the water in the kernels promotes satiety, says Maya Vadiveloo, an associate professor of nutrition at the University of Rhode Island. Rounding out corn's nutrition perks are a variety of vitamins and minerals, including magnesium, potassium, B vitamins and vitamins A and C.

Fresh vs. frozen vs. canned

With its plump kernels bursting with a juicy sweetness, there's nothing that compares with the flavor of freshly picked corn. (Fun fact: A typical ear of corn has 800 kernels.) "Corn is a really seasonal ingredient when we know we're going to get the very best," Linsenmeyer says. Once corn is picked, though, the sugar it contains begins converting to starch, so ideally you'd eat it on the same day. To slow the process, keep corn on the cob in

its husk and cold until you're ready to use it.

"For the other months, frozen or canned are great options, but check for added ingredients. Canned corn can be high in sodium, and frozen corn packed in sauces may have extra fat and sodium," says Linsenmeyer.

If cost is important, though, frozen corn may be the route to go, Vadiveloo says. "If you can't shop frequently, frozen vegetables are fantastic, and frozen corn is as nutrient-dense as what you can get at the farmers market and much more affordable."

Beyond the cob

It's hard to beat corn on the cob. (It's even okay to have it with a little butter, because the fat helps you absorb the lutein and zeaxanthin.) But there are other ways to take advantage of this summer treat.

Catherine Perez, a registered dietitian who writes about plant-based diets on her blog, Plant Based RD, suggests tacos with black beans and corn topped with chimichurri sauce. "It's a

quick summer recipe that doesn't involve a lot of cooking, and the flavor of the sauce is nice and bright. It balances the sweetness of the corn," she says. Or try her skillet-charred corn and edamame salad, which is packed with protein and fiber.

She also likes to mix up corn's flavor by using both raw and cooked forms in dishes. "Raw corn is sweeter and has more of a crunch, and it's a really nice flavor contrast to cooked corn," she says. "I like mixing both textures into salads."

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WELL+BEING

I'm an oncologist. Here's how I reduce my own cancer risk.

Ask A Doctor

MIKKAEEL A. SEKERES

My family history of cancer is impressive, and not in a good way.

My mom has lung cancer, and both her brother and mother were diagnosed with leukemia. In my dad's side of the family, his father had prostate cancer and mother had ovarian cancer. These are some of the reasons I decided to specialize in cancer when I became a doctor.

While in medical school, I also decided that — as much as possible — I would avoid behaviors that could increase my own risk of developing cancer, given the number of people in my family who had the diagnosis.

But it's important to understand that not all cancers are associated with modifiable risk factors. A study from the American Cancer Society published in July estimated that, in 2019, 40 percent of new cancer diagnoses in adults age 30 and older in the United States were due to modifiable risk. In many cases, though, the risk of developing cancer can't be reduced by changing our behavior: The diagnosis is more or less a random event.

Still, here are five steps I've taken to reduce my own risk.

1. I take sun protection seriously

In medical school, I attended a lecture in which the professor showed us two photos: one of an older man with smooth, porcelain-like skin, attributed to the fact that he avoided the sun his entire life, and the other of a younger woman who spent plenty of time in the sun, her face a landscape of wrinkles. She looked far older than the man.

This was followed by a lecture on skin cancers, and the very next morning, I started applying a chemical sunscreen daily to my face and to the rest of my body when I anticipate sun exposure. (I also keep a bottle of sunscreen in my car just in case.) It's a habit I have continued for decades.

As the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends, I wear a hat, sunglasses and a long-sleeve

shirt when I spend a lot of time outside, like going to the beach or on a bike ride of 30 minutes or longer, in addition to applying sunscreen with an SPF of 15 or higher.

Here's why: In the 2019 study, ultraviolet radiation was found to be the second-largest contributor to new cancer diagnoses in men (about 6 percent of cancer cases) and the fifth-largest contributor in women (about 4 percent of cancer cases). Not surprisingly, most melanoma and non-melanoma (basal and squamous cell skin cancer) diagnoses were attributed to UV radiation.

Skin cancer risk increases with age — reflecting cumulative sun exposure — and in people with light-colored skin. While the risk of skin cancer is lower in people with darker skin color, it is still recommended they use sunscreen.

And of course, I never use tanning beds. Melanoma risk increases by 75 percent in people engaging in artificial tanning before the age of 35, and with years of use and number of sessions.

2. I keep alcohol intake at a minimum

I like to drink a cold beer when watching baseball in the summer or football in the fall. But I also know that alcohol consumption was the fourth-largest contributor to new cancer diagnoses in men (about 5 percent of cases) and third for women (about 6 percent of cases) in the 2019 study. While we commonly associate alcohol with cancers of the oral cavity or esophagus, by far the greatest number of cancer diagnoses attributed to alcohol consumption was actually breast cancer, with over 44,000 in the United States in 2019.

But how much alcohol is too much? Alcohol intake is a risk for cancer in a dose-dependent manner: the more you drink, the higher your cancer risk. Even those who have one drink per day have a modestly increased risk of some cancers. So I keep my intake to no more than 1-2 drinks per week.

3. I don't smoke

I attempted to modify my

mom's cancer risk by trying to convince her to quit smoking when I was 10 years old: At the encouragement of my fifth-grade science teacher, I replaced her Benson & Hedges cigarettes with rolled pieces of paper on which I had written "cancer sticks." Unfortunately, my effort was futile in the face of her nicotine addiction, though I never took up smoking myself — so my teacher's intervention worked on me.

Cigarette smoking was the greatest contributor to new cancer diagnoses in adults age 30 and older in the United States. Specifically, it was attributed to about 86 percent of lung cancer diagnoses, about 54 percent of cancers of the esophagus and about 51 percent of bladder cancers, among many, many other cancer types.

The good news is that people who stop smoking reduce their cancer risks substantially: The risk of lung cancer drops by half with 10-15 years of smoking cessation and falls to almost nonsmoker levels for those who quit by age 40. Similarly, the risk of esophageal cancer diminishes by 30 percent and of bladder cancer falls to 50 percent with 10 years of smoking cessation.

4. I exercise half an hour every day

I work out daily for 30 minutes. Like many, I find it hard to squeeze exercise into a busy day, so I start with it and make it convenient: I wake up a little earlier and get onto a bike machine that I keep near my bedroom while I catch up on social media. That way, no matter what direction the rest of the day takes, at least I've accomplished one positive thing for myself.

In a recent study of over 60,000 adults, those who exercised for two or more hours per week had a 26 percent lower risk of head and neck cancer, a 20 percent lower risk of lung cancer and an 11 percent lower risk of breast cancer, but slightly higher rates of melanoma and prostate cancer.

The American Cancer Society recommends 150-300 minutes of moderate intensity exercise (such as brisk walking, or biking under 10 mph) or 75-150

minutes of vigorous intensity (such as running, or cycling 10 mph or faster) per week, citing risk reduction in breast, colon and endometrial cancers, among others.

5. I avoid sugary drinks, fast food and processed meats

Research has found an association between colorectal cancer and consumption of red meat and processed meat, as well as with low dietary fiber and calcium. Low fruit and vegetable consumption has been associated with oral cavity, pharyngeal, esophageal and laryngeal cancers.

So I try my best to eat healthy, well-balanced meals. But I'm an omnivore, and I don't do well with restrictive diets or dietary recommendations that call for multiple servings of one type of food daily. I have cut out sugary drinks entirely. I have a fruit or vegetable with lunch and dinner, and I limit my red meat intake to once or twice per week. Most importantly, I rarely get fast food, and I avoid processed meats.

Mikkael A. Sekeres, MD, is the chief of the division of hematology and professor of medicine at the Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center, University of Miami. He is author of the books "When Blood Breaks Down: Life Lessons from Leukemia" and "Drugs and the FDA: Safety, Efficacy, and the Public's Trust."

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She was confused, snappish — and recovered quickly

MEDICAL MYSTERIES FROM E1

snappish.

Her cousin asked what was wrong. Trainor replied that she wanted some Swedish fish candy. “I wouldn’t let it go, and I wouldn’t stop,” she said. “I felt like I had no control of the emotions I was experiencing.” After paying the cashier, the duo made a beeline for the popular candy. Trainor scarfed several handfuls and again felt and acted like herself.

“I have a lot of patience, and I’m not a reactive personality,” said Trainor, who remembers feeling puzzled by her intractable impatience.

By December 2022, something seemed to change. One morning during the school holidays, Trainor wandered into the kitchen around 7:30 — later than her customary 6 a.m. wake-up time. She opened the pantry, retrieved a box of cereal, scooped some out and then tipped the box into her mouth. Her children, then 3 and 5, gaped.

“We’re a silly family, but I’m also a neat freak and don’t want to get cereal everywhere,” said Trainor. “It felt like I was conscious of what I was doing but unable to stop it.”

Her husband shot her a side-long glance but said nothing. Trainor then headed to the adjacent family room to watch an English soccer match on TV.

“I don’t know what that means,” she remarked, pointing to a sign on the wall that read “Tottenham,” the name of her favorite team.

“What are you talking about?” Bryan Trainor asked. His wife shrugged, unable to explain. Twenty minutes later, Trainor said she was “completely back to normal” and remembers thinking, “That was a very strange thing I just did.”

Two weeks later an upsetting episode marked a turning point. Trainor, who remembers feeling slightly nauseated and “off,” was making breakfast when her 5-year-old son announced he had changed his mind and wanted chocolate chips, not strawberries, in his pancakes.

“I flew off the handle and said, ‘I don’t know why you didn’t tell me, why am I standing here making these pancakes?’” Trainor remembers saying to the little boy. She slammed the spatula down on the counter and stalked into the laundry room, slamming the

door so hard it came off its track before stomping upstairs.

Her husband finished the pancakes and brought her some. Trainor ate them, calmed down and apologized to her son.

“That was particularly unnerving,” she said. “I don’t shout at the kids. I couldn’t figure out why I was so mad.”

It was clear to Trainor that something was wrong and that she needed to see a doctor. She didn’t have a primary-care physician, so she made an appointment with a friend’s family doctor whom she saw at the end of January 2023.

Trainor recounted the cereal and pancake episodes and told the doctor she often felt ill and somewhat nauseated first thing in the morning. After the results of blood tests were normal, the doctor told Trainor he could find no explanation. He urged her to stay hydrated and return if there was a recurrence.

In early March 2023, Trainor said she awoke feeling “disoriented and very upset” but didn’t know why. Her 3-year-old daughter was dawdling and by the time the pair got in the car for the morning drop-off, Trainor had not calmed down and her daughter was in tears.

Trainor said she nearly missed the turn into the day-care center, a route she had driven since the little girl was 4 months old, because it looked unfamiliar. As she pulled up to the building, she remembers thinking, “Huh, they’re renovated [overnight]. That’s so weird.”

But 10 minutes later when she arrived at work, Trainor said, she realized that nothing about the entrance or building had changed.

“I thought I was having a psychotic break,” she said.

She immediately called the doctor and saw him later that day. “He was very sympathetic and said, ‘You’re a mom of two young kids and a teacher and you’re doing so much,’” she remembers. He prescribed an antidepressant and an anti-anxiety drug.

“I just knew that wasn’t it,” Trainor said. But she said she felt uncharacteristically unable to express her doubts.

A possible pattern

Trainor’s skepticism was rooted in experience.

“As a teacher for 13 years, I had been in a lot of stressful situations, and this didn’t feel like any

callback in January 2023. Hers required a biopsy, which found she did not have breast cancer, she says, but “I do understand firsthand the stress. You don’t think this will happen to you. I didn’t stay calm. I had to wait, which was nerve-racking. They did the biopsy right away, but it was another week before I got the results. Even knowing the odds, I found it very stressful.”

Many readings can prompt a callback, including a suspected mass; calcifications, which are calcium deposits that show up as tiny white specks like grains of salt; and dense breast tissue, which makes it difficult to see various parts of the breast. Another finding, known as “asymmetry,” means one part of the breast looks different from the corresponding area in the other breast. One cause of asymmetry is overlapping tissue, which results when the breast is compressed during imaging, experts say. It looks suspicious but is harmless.

The percentage of callbacks tends to be higher for a first mammogram and declines with age, according to the cancer society. There are several reasons for this. Younger women, typically in their 40s, have no prior mammograms for comparison purposes, so the radiologist can’t see changes over time. Older women, on the other hand, have a history.

Also, as women age, their glandular tissue — the tissue that makes milk — steadily turns to fat, which makes a mammogram easier to read. Finally, younger women tend to have denser breast tissue than older women.

“Our bodies change over time,” so women should have a baseline first-time mammogram and es-



BRYAN TRAINOR

High school English teacher Lindsay Trainor experienced jarring, unexplained mood swings.

of that,” she said. “But I’m a little follower, and [the doctor] told me to do it, so I did it,” she said of the medications. But instead of feeling better, Trainor said, the drugs made her feel worse.

She later learned that her sister, a pediatric nurse practitioner at Children’s National Hospital, worried that her outbursts and confusion signaled a brain tumor.

“I wouldn’t let it go, and I wouldn’t stop. I felt like I had no control of the emotions I was experiencing.”

Lindsay Trainor, about her sudden outbursts

Bryan Trainor, who had wondered whether his wife was sneaking alcohol, noticed a pattern. The episodes most often occurred in the morning and seemed to clear up after she ate. Perhaps there was a problem with her blood sugar?

Trainor, who had been diagnosed with gestational diabetes during both pregnancies, was familiar with the basics of blood sugar. (Gestational diabetes is a temporary pregnancy-related condition that causes elevated

blood sugar readings; it usually disappears after delivery.) She bought a home glucose monitor to measure her blood sugar first thing in the morning. Trainor’s readings were below 55; the normal level after fasting is between 70 and 100.

Trainor showed the readings to her family doctor who referred her to an endocrinologist for treatment of possible hypoglycemia or low blood sugar. The condition typically occurs in people with Type 1 or Type 2 diabetes. But Trainor was not diabetic. In people without diabetes, hypoglycemia has multiple causes, including infection, anorexia, certain medications or excess alcohol consumption.

If it is mild or moderate, hypoglycemia can cause shakiness, confusion, irritability or hunger and can be easily reversed by eating or drinking something containing sugar. Severe cases can result in unconsciousness or coma and require immediate treatment.

Trainor saw the endocrinologist in April. He ordered additional tests and gave her a continuous glucose monitor, a small device affixed to the back of the arm that measures blood sugar levels around the clock.

In May, the endocrinologist reviewed a month’s worth of readings. Trainor’s fasting blood sugar was only 35. He prescribed a drug to manage very low blood sugar,

which was ineffective, and told Trainor she needed to undergo a 72-hour fasting test that measures blood sugar and other hormone levels. The test, which is conducted in a hospital, is regarded as the gold standard in the diagnosis of a rare pancreatic neuroendocrine tumor called an insulinoma.

Neuroendocrine tumors, which can be benign or malignant, make hormones that help regulate various bodily functions. An insulinoma results in the production of excess insulin, causing blood sugar levels to drop too low, resulting in hypoglycemia.

The best place for the test, the endocrinologist told Trainor, is Johns Hopkins Hospital, 70 miles north of her home. He didn’t have a doctor to whom he could refer her and advised her to search the hospital website for an insulinoma expert and schedule the test.

“I was frantic,” recalled Trainor. The frequency of hypoglycemic episodes was increasing, and Trainor would need to see a new endocrinologist at Hopkins before any test could be scheduled. The first appointment was four months away, in September. She took it.

But at a follow-up visit at the end of May, the endocrinologist ordered a specialized PET-CT scan, which is also used to detect neuroendocrine tumors.

The scan revealed that a single tumor, probably benign, was

causing Trainor’s hypoglycemia. The insulinoma explained the odd episodes that dated back seven years, the reason her outbursts and confusion resolved when she ate something, as well as her very low blood sugar readings.

Surgery to remove the tumor is the preferred treatment. The endocrinologist referred Trainor to a pancreatic surgeon in Washington.

Cured

Endocrinologist Adrian Vella, an insulinoma expert and professor of medicine at the Mayo Clinic, said insulinomas can be difficult to diagnose in part because they are rare.

“The biggest problem is that there are 4 [cases] in 1 million,” he said, referring to the incidence. Misconceptions about hypoglycemia, which can be confused with hunger, further complicate their identification.

“I think there are so many [patients] crying wolf that when the wolf shows up” doctors miss it, he said.

Home glucose tests tend to be unreliable, Vella noted. The most accurate measurement of blood sugar occurs during, not after, a hypoglycemic episode. “True hypoglycemia is all about the numbers,” he said. It is most likely to occur overnight or if a meal is skipped.

A study of patients treated at Mayo found that the average delay from the onset of symptoms to diagnosis was about 2.5 years.

About 10 percent of insulinomas are cancerous; they are more common in people with certain inherited tumor-producing disorders such as multiple endocrine neoplasia Type 2 or MEN 2. There is no such history in Trainor’s family.

Surgery is typically curative. “It’s usually one and done,” said Vella, adding that these tumors rarely recur.

Trainor underwent surgery in September. She spent one night in the hospital and was back at work a month later. Her blood sugar levels, which were monitored closely for several months, were normal a few days after the operation and have remained so. The odd episodes have not returned.

Trainor said her experience reinforced the importance of “trusting that you know yourself.” She said she wishes she had been more assertive early on when she doubted the initial diagnosis of anxiety but felt “very muted and scared” for reasons she can’t explain.

“Had Bryan and I not started testing [my blood sugar] at home, I don’t know how long it would have taken” to figure out the real cause, she said.

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Mammogram callbacks are nerve-racking but important not to ignore

MAMMOGRAM FROM E1

ican College of Radiology — but can be scary, especially if you have to wait for an appointment. The vast majority of the callbacks, however, turn out to be false alarms, according to the American Cancer Society. Fewer than 1 in 10 women who return for more imaging have cancer.

Women should never ignore a callback, which usually involves more extensive pictures, known as a diagnostic mammogram, and sometimes will require a sonogram and biopsy, experts say. Early detection of breast cancer usually means less-invasive treatment and high survival, more than 90 percent five years out, experts say.

“If you get a callback, don’t panic. Go back. Take care of business.”

Laurie Margolies, vice chair for breast imaging for the Mount Sinai Health System and professor of diagnostic, molecular and interventional radiology

“Callbacks happen frequently and with good reason, because we want to be sure,” says Karen E. Knudsen, chief executive officer of the American Cancer Society. “Most of the time, nothing is wrong. But if you get a callback, make the appointment.”

Still, for some women, the time between a callback and additional tests can be terrifying. “The stress is profound. I have been there,” Knudsen says of her own



SHUTTERSTOCK

Mammogram callbacks are common — about 10 out of every 100 women are told they need more imaging after an initial screening, according to the American College of Radiology.

establish a history of yearly images “so you can see the changes,” says Elisa Port, professor of surgery at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai and chief of breast surgery for the Mount Sinai Health System. “Things change for different reasons, so it’s important to know what is normal for you.”

There is some debate among experts as to when to start getting mammograms and how often. The cancer society says it’s optional for women between 40 and 44 to have one annually; for those 45 to 54, yearly mammograms are recommended. A woman is at average risk if she doesn’t have a personal history of breast cancer, a family history of the disease, or any of the genetic mutations linked to an increased risk of breast cancer, according to the cancer society. (Chest radiation therapy before the age of 30, can also increase the risk.) After 54, it’s up to the woman to decide whether to have mammo-

grams annually or every other year.

The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force recommends biennial screenings for women between 40 and 74 at average risk for breast cancer. It’s best to consult with your doctor about your individual risk factors to determine timing.

As for the callback, Port says some women psychologically “want the resolution and are willing to drop everything and come in, and should have that option,” if it’s possible, she says, while others, with busy lives and other commitments, are comfortable waiting a week or two.

At Mount Sinai, “we are very motivated to get women back in and move things along,” Port says. “I think a woman should be able to come in within three or four business days, if that’s what she wants. But it’s not a medical emergency. Nothing will be growing or changing in a week or two,” she adds. “You haven’t

blown anything by waiting.”

How can someone decrease the chances of getting a callback? Experts have some tips for that — and recommendations for how to reduce any anxiety before and after a mammogram.

• Before your screening mammogram, ask the radiology center about its equipment. The use of three-dimensional mammography — which combines multiple X-ray images of the breast — decreases the callback rate, according to Laurie Margolies, vice chair for breast imaging for the Mount Sinai Health System and professor of diagnostic, molecular and interventional radiology. Ask also whether the center uses AI, which “acts like a second opinion,” Margolies says. “It’s not perfect, but it’s helpful.”

• Make sure the facility has your prior mammograms for comparison purposes. If this is your first visit to a new facility, ask your previous one to load your earlier mammograms onto

a CD so you can bring it with you.

• Get screened regularly, depending on your risk, to establish a history.

• If you are really anxious about the possibility of a callback, ask whether your mammogram can be read while you wait. “Some practices will do that,” Margolies says. If that isn’t an option and if the radiology center has a patient portal, it should have the report as soon as the physician signs off on it.

• If you do get a callback, ask how quickly you can be seen. Some facilities make it a priority to schedule callbacks as soon as possible.

• Try not to panic, which doctors acknowledge can be easier said than done. “I had one older lady having a biopsy who thought she was going to die,” Margolies recalls. “She started giving away her dishes. I thought it would be benign, and it was.” If you do get regular mammograms and cancer is found, “your chances of beating it are phenomenal,” she adds. Most women who die of breast cancer neglect to have these screenings or ignore callbacks, she says. “Get the screen. You don’t want to wait until it’s the size of a tennis ball and bleeding.”

• Remind yourself that callbacks are not uncommon and the likelihood of finding cancer in such cases is remote. Even if you need a biopsy, it doesn’t mean you have cancer. And if you do, it’s likely that screening will mean it has been picked up early and with a high survival rate.

• If you are anxious, the American Cancer Society has a phone line (1-800-227-2345) and a live chat line, available at the bottom of its homepage.

• Finally, know that it is normal to feel anxious. “Take a deep breath,” Margolies says. “There’s a very good chance it will be benign. But if it’s not, it will most likely be an early breast cancer with a high cure rate and minimally invasive treatment. If you get a callback, don’t panic. Go back. Take care of business.”

WELL+BEING

After brain tumor surgery, adapting to a different mind

TUMOR FROM E1

cancer. If a tumor is near a sensitive part of the brain, doctors can remove only part of it. Even if they get most of it (as they did in my case), the tumor almost always grows back, often aggressively. I am learning to live with the knowledge that there's a ticking time bomb in my head.

I was lucky. I had a low-grade tumor, an oligodendroglioma, which has a far better prognosis — patients can live about 10 years on average — than a glioblastoma, a more aggressive brain cancer that typically kills patients within 15 months, including my brother when he was 18.

But survival is only half the battle. Like up to 80 percent of the patients in treatment for brain tumors in the United States, I've had to adapt to a mind that feels very different from the one I knew.

Stolen words, lost memories

After the surgery, everything was hazy. Aphasia stole my words and wiped out my short-term memory. I didn't know what year it was or who was president. I couldn't remember the address of our Manhattan apartment.

When I opened my mouth to speak, I made incoherent sounds. Even when my speech haltingly returned over six long months of incremental progress, I still lost my train of thought mid-sentence. In the shower, I would forget if I had used soap and reapplied it so many times my skin began peeling. I struggled to do simple math problems or connect two dots to make a line. Loud noises felt like nails on a chalkboard.

To this day, odd spatial miscalculations mean I often knock over my coffee, bang the side of my face into walls and lose my balance.

I had earned degrees in engineering and economics and always took pride in my problem-solving skills. Before my diagnosis, I was the director of economic research at a family investment office. My sudden inability to manage even basic tasks was devastating for my self-esteem. If my mind no longer worked the way it used to, was I still me?

Doctors know how difficult it is. Ingo Mellinghoff, my neuro-oncologist at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York, said telling patients they have a



Once an obsessive planner and frantic multitasker, I have learned to slow down and appreciate the small things.

brain tumor is more difficult than delivering news of other types of cancer. "It's not just because brain tumors are incurable," he says. "It's because of the cognitive impairment they will almost certainly experience."

Mercifully, malignant brain cancer is relatively rare — afflicting fewer than 26,000 Americans a year, according to the National Institutes of Health. Yet it is fairly dire: Only a third of these patients are likely to be alive in five years, and the disease kills more American children under 15 than any other type of cancer. Perhaps because brain cancer attracts less research funding than more common cancers, there have been few treatment breakthroughs in the past 20 years.

This may change with the National Brain Tumor Society's new

Quality of Life Research agenda. Clinicians can now apply for research funding to explore common symptoms afflicting brain cancer patients, including fatigue, seizures and poor sleep, as well as challenges with balance, coordination, word-finding and memory.

"Quality-of-life issues are widespread among brain cancer patients, but they are tough to quantify and often overlooked in the quest for cures. We need research just like this to come up with better, less toxic treatments," says John de Groot, a neuro-oncologist at the University of California at San Francisco.

For patients like me, these initiatives can't come soon enough.

But I've learned to cope. After my surgery, my oncologist recommended Vorasidenib, a recently

approved drug that targets genetic mutations specific to my tumor. I've been on it for more than two years, and my cancer, so far, is stable.

This, together with my anti-seizure medications, has left me with near-crippling fatigue, but it's far better than the toxic world of chemotherapy and radiation I may enter if my quarterly MRIs reveal a new tumor.

Although I still have lapses when I walk and talk, I feel more like myself, thanks to the care of speech and physical therapists. I've also discovered quite a few coping mechanisms on my own.

When I first began misplacing words, I would freeze and gape like a fish. Seeing people gaze at me with pity was mortifying. I'm now better at finding alternative words, changing the subject or

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY ELIZABETH VON OEHSEN/
THE WASHINGTON POST; ISTOCK

simply saying, "Oops! I lost my train of thought!"

Daily checklists, deeper appreciation

My days are now dictated by checklists, which I've drawn up to make sure I don't forget to turn off the stove or grab my keys before heading out. Because my brain needs more rest, I take regular naps. I take comfort in the brain's remarkable ability to knit together, repair and grow new neurons. I am humbled, but I am healing, too.

I am no longer able to work — a loss I still mourn. But my diagnosis has deepened my appreciation for what gives life meaning. My husband and I sold our

apartment, which had been crammed between tall office buildings, to move near Central Park. My daily walks amid majestic oaks and myriad songbirds are both meditative and healing. My time with my children feels profound, often achingly so. We are as honest as possible about my diagnosis, but death is still too abstract a concept for them. It remains fairly abstract for us, too.

Like many Pakistani immigrants, I used to bury my emotions under hard work and tangible accomplishments. But at the urging of a psychiatrist, I've become more comfortable talking about my sadness over the untimely loss of my brother's life and my uncertainty about my own.

Because brain cancer has few survivors and a fairly small community of advocates, patients can feel isolated. I now feel a responsibility to be more open about my challenges and fears, not only because I've found this helps ease my suffering but also because it may help someone else with theirs.

Once an obsessive planner and frantic multitasker, I have learned to slow down and appreciate the small things. Making brownies with my 10-year-old daughter. Reading to my 6-year-old son. Building sandcastles on Long Island beaches. Stargazing in the dark skies of Upstate New York.

It turns out there's always room for innocence and awe, for love and beauty. Grand dreams and ambitions now feel uncomfortably hubristic, but perhaps they always were. It's a nice surprise to learn that now, for me, the wonders of even the smallest moments appear to be enough.

COURTESY OF SUNDAS HASHMI
Sundas Hashmi

Cognitive tests don't tell the whole story behind memory glitches, doctors say

MEMORY FROM E1

"You don't have a brain tumor or a cognitive deficit," she told me. "But you do have an anxiety disorder," she said abruptly, knowing the stress I'd been under. She prescribed medication for the anxiety and suggested I begin a meditation practice.

I'm not the only one I know to worry about my cognition or brain health. According to a 2020 study, two-thirds of Americans experience some level of cognitive decline by age 70. The lifetime risk for dementia for women is 37 percent (24 percent for men). These are stats that will make you pay attention.

Notably, there are key differences among populations. Higher education and continued learning appear to build up a "cognitive reserve" that can help stave off symptoms.

Disadvantaged groups experience a younger age of onset, higher lifetime risk and more years of cognitive impairment than their more advantaged counterparts. Race and ethnicity seem to count, too: White women average six years of cognitively impaired life compared with 12 and 13 years among Black women and Latinas.

Unbeknownst to me, my doctor had used one of the most commonly used cognitive assessment tools (also known as memory tests), the Mini-Mental State Exam (MMSE). It's considered highly effective in recognizing cognitive impairment and revealing changes that may benefit from intervention.

But if you're considering getting tested to assuage anxiety or to learn more, know that cognitive assessments don't tell the whole story. Ronald Petersen, a neurologist at the Mayo Clinic who specializes in the cognitive changes associated with aging, notes that "they give us an approximate idea of how someone is doing cognitively, but they're not diagnostic."

He won't tell a patient to stop driving based on the results, for example, and he can't use them to make a diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease. Screening tests don't reveal why there may be cognitive



Sixty percent of older adults say they'd like their health-care providers to offer cognitive assessments, a recent poll found.

"They give us an approximate idea of how someone is doing cognitively, but they're not diagnostic."

Ronald Petersen, a neurologist at the Mayo Clinic, on cognitive assessments

impairment, where in the brain there's a problem, or what condition might be causing it.

Petersen explained that these screenings are like blood pressure readings, providing "a metric, a number that we can put on cognitive function that helps us assess where the person is now and, most importantly, where they may be going if, in fact, we do this [testing] on a regular basis."

This is why psychologist Ste-

phen Rao, who heads up the cognitive neuroimaging center at Cleveland Clinic, recommends annual assessments for those 65-plus. All patients in his facility are given a battery of tests during their yearly wellness appointments to measure and track cognitive function (orientation, registration, attention/calculation, recall, and language).

If the findings suggest a noticeable change or an abnormality,

Rao can recommend more sophisticated testing, including an MRI or PET scan, a lumbar puncture to look at cerebrospinal fluid (which can help diagnose Alzheimer's), and blood biomarker tests, seen as an emerging option for detecting the abnormal build-up of proteins that could be an early sign of Alzheimer's disease.

Medicare covers cognitive assessments during an annual wellness visit, but Petersen says many

primary-care doctors are uncomfortable administering them. They don't know which tests to use — some are as simple as the one my doctor used, but others can take up to 25 minutes to administer — how to interpret the results and what to do with abnormal findings. A recent poll showed 80 percent of older adults see the benefit of assessments, with 60 percent saying they'd like their health-care providers to of-

fer them. At the same time, 80 percent haven't been tested in the past year and 59 percent report never having had one.

It's important to differentiate the changes to be expected during aging from actual cognitive impairment. "It's not black and white," says Petersen, adding that normal aging includes occasionally forgetting the names of acquaintances, missing a monthly payment, having trouble finding the right word, and losing things.

More troubling signs might be forgetting names of close family members, often being unable to find things, ongoing problems managing bills, or difficulty maintaining a conversation. It may be time for a cognitive test if you are asking the same question repeatedly, getting lost in places you know well, or having trouble following recipes.

Some people are hesitant to take a cognitive assessment due to privacy concerns or because they incorrectly assume that nothing could be done with the results or are worried what they might find out. But Rao said that about 40 percent of dementia cases "can either be reversed or slowed down if detected early."

He also emphasized that screening can alert doctors to look for other, treatable, issues that may cause cognitive decline. For instance, doctors say, blood clots may cause memory issues, as can some medications, a head injury, alcohol or drug misuse, too little sleep, and low levels of crucial nutrients (such as vitamin B12). Depression and stress can also affect memory. The good news, says Petersen, is that memory problems may go away once the underlying condition is treated.

That's why next month, when I go in for my annual wellness visit, I'm going to ask my doctor for a cognitive assessment. I've learned a trick or two since my last test: It's much easier to do the count-down exercise (repeatedly subtract 7 from 100) if you subtract 10 and then add three back. Also, it's not hard to memorize how to spell "w-o-r-l-d" backward. As long as my doctor doesn't give me a different word, I should do fine.

WELL+BEING

The awkward — but vital — experience of getting a Pap

BY GEMMA CORRELL

Getting a Pap smear isn't among my favorite things to do, ranking somewhere between eating cauliflower (ugh) and going to the dentist (worse). I usually find the experience awkward, but it has to be done — every three years for most patients, according to the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists — to detect changes in cervical cells that may become cancerous. Over the past 30 years in the United States, the number of cervical cancer cases and deaths has decreased by half, mainly because of the increase in screenings. ¶ If you're like me and tend to dread the experience, here's what you might expect from your Pap smear.



'Nose blindness' could keep you from smelling bad breath

BY LINDSEY BEVER

The question:

Is it true that you can't smell your own breath?

The science:

TikTokers and others on social media call it nose blindness — when you smell an odor so often that you lose the ability to smell it at all, including your own breath in certain cases.

It's a temporary adaptation that enables us to block out smells — good or bad — that we're exposed to all the time, such as our deodorant or cologne.

We are surrounded by smells

— dinner cooking on the stove, clean clothes tumbling in the dryer, the wet dog running through the house. Each odor consists of tiny molecules that we breathe in through our nose, where they stimulate specialized nerve cells called olfactory sensory neurons.

These neurons then send that information to our brains, where they are interpreted as certain smells. But our sense of smell has evolved to be able to dampen this response when necessary.

If olfactory sensory neurons are being stimulated by a large concentration of an odor or an odor that lingers for a long period of time, the neurons become saturated, said Erich P. Voigt,



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chief of the division of general and sleep otolaryngology at New York University Langone Health. "They're no longer going to respond because it's not new or necessary information, and you

need to be able to smell other odorants in the environment," he said.

While most people should be able to smell new and temporary bad breath — such as breath

caused by something they ate for lunch — over time, they are likely to lose the ability to smell chronic bad breath stemming from, say, medical issues such as dental disease, infections in the sinuses or tonsils, and gastrointestinal disorders that allow odors to rise up from the stomach, Voigt explained.

When the nose is given a break from an odor, allowing the olfactory sensory neurons and brain to recalibrate, the ability to smell it should return, said Jennifer Douglas, a rhinologist and assistant professor of otorhinolaryngology and head and neck surgery at the University of Pennsylvania.

Olfactory adaptation is different from smell disorders such as hyposmia, a diminished ability to smell, and anosmia, an inability to smell at all. These disorders are often caused by illness or injury.

What else you should know:

People can smell their bad breath in two ways — when the odor flows through the back of the mouth and when it flows through the tip of the nose, which people can do by blowing their breath into their hand and taking a sniff, Douglas said.

In chronic cases, once people can no longer smell their breath but have reason to believe it may be bad, Voigt suggested confiding in a family member or friend for an honest assessment. If bad breath is confirmed, consult a dentist or a primary care doctor who can assess and treat it or provide a referral to a specialist.

The bottom line:

In most cases, people should be able to smell new and temporary bad breath, but they will probably lose the ability to smell bad breath that becomes a chronic problem.