



IN THE RED: Vice President Kamala Harris, with second gentleman Doug Emhoff, is walking away from a lavish presidential campaign. Political strategists say celebrity endorsements cast her as an out-of-touch elitist who dismissed voters' concerns about the economy.

CAMPAIGN 2024

Elitist campaigning too costly for Harris

Democrats face '\$1 billion disaster' as Republicans move forward

By **JEFF MORDOCK**
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Vice President Kamala Harris' luring of celebrities out of their mansions to perform songs for middle-class voters struggling to afford groceries and rent was symbolic of an attitude that ultimately doomed her \$1 billion presidential campaign.

It's not clear that these endorsements had any impact, but strategists say they cast Ms. Harris as an out-of-touch elitist dismissive of voters' concerns about the economy.

"She rolled out Taylor Swift and all these people to talk about the decline of democracy, but she didn't address the No. 1 issue, which was inflation, and that is what did her in," said Brad Bannon, a Democratic Party strategist. "She never drove home the issue of inflation. She talked about other things."

Democrats persisted in finger-pointing and soul-searching over the weekend as the magnitude of Donald Trump's comeback win reached its conclusion. Mr. Trump captured Arizona and Nevada, the last two states to be decided, giving him wins in all seven battleground states and 312 electoral votes to Ms. Harris' 226.

Mr. Trump also won the popular vote, and Republicans gained control of the Senate by a 53-47 margin. Republicans are on track to keep their majority in the House, although some races

» see **HARRIS** | A4



LET DOWN: Grassroots supporters of Ms. Harris were left disappointed after waiting for her plan to make their lives easier. Instead, she rolled out celebrities and focused her message on abortion rights.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Voters fight like cats and dogs over president

By **STEPHEN DINAN**
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Kamala's cat women couldn't save her.

Vice President Kamala Harris, derided as the candidate of choice for "childless cat ladies," won over female cat owners vote by 7 percentage points in the presidential election, but it was nowhere near the lopsided margins she needed to overcome President-elect Donald Trump.

Mr. Trump won among male

cat owners by a 9-point margin and among male and female dog owners.

Those numbers are just some demographic details from the Fox News/Associated Press Election Day survey covering tens of thousands of voters. The survey, along with traditional exit polling by a consortium led by CNN, NBC, CBS and ABC, sliced and diced the electorate in myriad ways to tease out who voted and what they thought about the issues.

The overall picture showed

voters were deeply dissatisfied with the country, which benefited Mr. Trump. Voters also seemed to trust him more than Ms. Harris to handle their top priorities, such as immigration, crime and the economy.

Ms. Harris was more trusted on abortion, climate change and health care.

When presented with specific policy questions, voters seemed inclined toward the ones more

» see **PETS** | A5

ACCOUNTABILITY

Trump election sends 'stunned' FBI brass to exit

Former investigators, senior executives see writing on wall

By **KERRY PICKET**
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

The brass on the seventh floor at FBI headquarters in Washington have been in a daze and wary of a housecleaning since Donald Trump was reelected president on Tuesday, inside sources say.

The Washington Times learned through several anonymous bureau sources that senior agency executives were "stunned" and "shell-shocked" by Mr. Trump's victory over Vice President Kamala Harris.

"You know the fit test? How they let the standards slack on the fit test?" said the first FBI source, referring to the agency's physical fitness requirements. "Everyone's going to have a real problem when they're running for the door."

FBI Director Christopher A. Wray and Deputy Director Paul Abbate have little chance of remaining at the bureau by the time Mr. Trump is inaugurated, sources say.

FBI employees recall Mr.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

'IT'S A COUNTDOWN' FBI Director Christopher A. Wray may be stepping down before Inauguration Day in January.

Trump firing Director James B. Comey five months after taking the oath of office in 2017.

"It's a countdown for Wray because [people here] don't think he will stay to get fired after what Trump did to Comey," the first sources say.

» see **FBI** | A5

MILITARY

Nothing like cash to recruit, retain world's warriors

Love of country not enough

By **BEN WOLFGANG**
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Free college tuition. New cars. Complimentary passes to government gyms. And cold, hard cash.

Militaries all over the world are at war right now. They are getting creative with pay and benefits to lure recruits and to keep battle-hardened veterans in their uniforms for another round.

Ukraine, Russia, Israel and Iran-backed terrorist outfits such as Hamas and the Houthis rebels are boosting pay and crafting other, sometimes nontraditional, incentives to replenish their ranks.

It isn't easy to compare the pay and benefits offered to service

members from one country to another. America's GI Bill and other military benefits that help troops pay for higher education do not have direct equivalents in Russia, where most citizens get tuition-free college. Up-front enlistment bonuses or other financial incentives may not translate in the same way in Israel, where all young men and women must join the military for at least two years.

One universal truth seems to apply everywhere: Money talks.

The U.S. military offers college, retirement, housing, health care and child care benefits to its troops, but specialists say bigger

» see **MILITARY** | A5

VIRGINIA

Prosecutors keep lid on identities of high-profile Beltway brothel clients

By **RYAN LOVELACE**
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Rich and powerful clients of two illegal Northern Virginia brothels have so far avoided prosecution, The Washington Times has learned.

The Justice Department identified the clients of brothels in Virginia and Massachusetts last year as elected politicians, military officers, technology executives and government contractors with security clearances, among others.

Federal prosecutors are pursuing the operators of the brothels. Massachusetts is investigating 28 of the sex buyers, or johns, whose identities remain hidden.

Virginia is pursuing no one.

The commonwealth's inaction nearly one year after the brothels' exposure is all the more puzzling considering the level of activity at the locations in Fairfax and Tysons is greater than their counterparts near Boston. A source familiar with the investigations estimated that the brothels in Virginia had more clients

than those in Massachusetts.

The disparate prosecutions raise questions about judicial fairness and national security given the reported prominence and sensitive positions of those who have frequented the brothels.

Virginia prosecutors said they did not act on referrals from federal officials because of a lack of evidence.

Fairfax Commonwealth's Attorney Steve Descano, a Democrat, concluded that he did not have sufficient evidence to make cases against any suspected

sex customers under the state's solicitation statute, said spokeswoman Laura Birnbaum.

"We were in touch with the [state] attorney general's office about this matter because they were looking into maybe taking [cases] as well, just from a capacity standpoint. But they also determined there wasn't enough evidence," Ms. Birnbaum said. "So we agreed on that."

The office of Virginia Attorney General Jason Miyares, a Republican, confirmed that prosecutors appeared to lack

sufficient evidence in the North Virginia cases but emphasized that Mr. Descano, not Mr. Miyares' office, had jurisdiction.

Ms. Birnbaum said she knew of no other Virginia authorities investigating the suspected sex customers.

The determinations by Virginia's Democratic and Republican prosecutors are hard to square with what federal officials have introduced in court.

The officials have supported their

» see **BROTHEL** | A5

POLITICS

Trump considers three candidates for attorney general. A3

NATION

Looming tariffs, strike expected to boost imports at ports. A6

WORLD

Israeli airstrikes leave dozens dead in Lebanon, Gaza. A8

COMMENTARY

Harris win would have spawned one-party central government. B1

VOLUME 42, NUMBER 231





MELANIA TRUMP'S BOOK STILL NO. 1

It is of note that incoming first lady Melania Trump's autobiography remains No. 1 on Amazon's "most sold" bestseller list. Her book — which was published Oct. 8 by Skyhorse — has also reached No. 1 in the categories of memoirs, political leader biographies and — interestingly enough — in traveler and explorer biographies. Mrs. Trump continues to be the inevitable source of fascination for the news media, in the meantime. Here are a few headlines from the past 72 hours: "As First Lady, Melania Trump wants to be a positive, unifying force for good in return to White House" (Fox News); "Melania Trump: Enigmatic and fiercely independent first lady is back" (BBC); "CNN commentator brands Elon Musk the 'First Lady' after Melania doesn't appear in Trump family photo" (The Independent); "What to expect from Melania Trump's second stint as First Lady" (Today.com); "Melania Trump always defied the First Lady fashion rules — here's what she'll do the second time around" (The Telegraph); "Melania Trump: 'We will safeguard the heart of our republic'" (The Hill).



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Incoming first lady Melania Trump's autobiography is No. 1 on Amazon's "most sold" bestseller list. It was published on Oct. 8 by Skyhorse.

week on which it falls. The restoration of the observance of Veterans Day to November 11 not only preserves the historical significance of the date, but helps focus attention on the important purpose of Veterans Day: A celebration to honor America's veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good," notes a history of the date released by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

POLITICAL ADS

The cost of political advertising 2024 presidential election was projected to reach a record-breaking \$10.7 billion according to AdImpact, an analytical company that tracks the effectiveness of TV ads in particular. That's up 19% from the amount spent during the 2019-2020 election. But wait. Do these ads matter to the public? "Political advertisements saturated TV for weeks before the presidential election, but didn't have much impact for most voters," advises Rasmussen Reports — which conducted a national telephone and online survey of likely voters during the 48 hours that followed the election itself. It revealed that 46% of likely U.S. voters say,

in terms of how they voted in this year's presidential election, that "TV commercials for or against either candidate did not influence them at all," the pollster said. "Another 29% say TV ads didn't have much influence on their presidential vote. Fourteen percent (14%) say TV commercials had some influence on how they voted, but just nine percent (9%) say such ads had a lot of influence on their presidential choice."

A GENUINE COALITION

The mainstream media had "a complete meltdown" following President-elect Donald Trump's decisive victory in the 2024 election. That is how Fox News anchor Maria Bartiromo put it during an exchange with Sen.-elect Dave McCormick on "Sunday Morning Futures." The Pennsylvania Republican had promising observations about Mr. Trump's activities in recent days. "President Trump built a really exciting coalition," Mr. McCormick said. "We see members of the trade unions getting behind him, the African American community, Hispanic community, Gen Z, the Jewish community. The coalition that he was able to build and I was able to help build and take advantage of is truly exciting," he noted. "The old lines between Democrats and Republicans are becoming very blurred. We really are the party that's representing working families, and it's no surprise that people want change — because under the failed leadership of Harris and Bob Casey and others, the economy, the border, crime, it's all gone in the wrong direction. The coalition is exciting — and I think we need to deliver really dramatic change in the direction of getting commonsense policies in place. And that's what Trump ran on. And that's what I ran on," Mr. McCormick observed.

STOP THE CRYING

One political observer is weary of political outreach which includes emotional turmoil

sparked by the presidential election. "President-elect Donald Trump's White House win this week was his first electoral victory in the TikTok era. Liberal tears might have flowed across the internet eight years ago, but that was nothing compared to the flooding that overtook the left's favorite video platform after Trump triumphed for a second time," writes Tristan Justice, western correspondent for The Federalist. "The online teardrops started tumbling even before the former president reclaimed the title earlier this week," Mr. Justice wrote. There must be something to all this. Geofrey Dickens, director of media analysis at the Media Research Center — a conservative press watchdog — also noted the trend. He tracked the "worst election media meltdowns" of the week in an analysis released Saturday. "It's been a rough few days for the leftist media elites. They have been in anguish ever since Election Day," Mr. Dickens observed.

POLL DU JOUR

- 27% of U.S. adults say the outcome of the 2024 presidential election makes them feel "worried."
• 15% of U.S. adults say the outcome makes them feel "hopeful."
• 12% of U.S. adults say the outcome makes them feel "relieved."
• 12% of U.S. adults say the outcome makes them feel "indifferent."
• 11% of U.S. adults say the outcome made them feel "happy."
• 7% of U.S. adults say the outcome made them feel "sad."
• 7% say the election made them feel "none of these" emotions.
• 6% say the election made them "angry."
• 2% say the election made them feel some "other" emotion.

SOURCE: AN IPSOS/REUTERS POLL OF 1,471 U.S. ADULTS CONDUCTED ONLINE NOV. 6-7.

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

ACCOUNTABILITY

Inspector general finds U.S. has spent more than \$14 billion on Afghan evacuees

By Stephen Dinan THE WASHINGTON TIMES

The U.S. has spent more than \$14 billion to rescue and resettle Afghans in the U.S. over the last three years, according to the inspector general who oversees the work. Most of that paid for the U.S. military, which flew the evacuation flights and housed tens of thousands of Afghans at military bases for months after they reached the U.S. Money also went to resettle the Afghans once they left the military base camps. Meanwhile Uncle Sam has shipped more than \$3 billion to Afghanistan since the Taliban's takeover

in the summer of 2021, as the Biden administration tries to boost humanitarian efforts in the shattered country without also sustaining the Taliban. "The United States remains the largest donor to the Afghan people," Inspector General John Sopko and his team said in their latest quarterly report on the U.S. efforts in the beleaguered nation. With the war effort over, Mr. Sopko now tracks Afghanistan's descent into chaos and what the U.S. is doing about it. He said the Taliban has "intensified" its campaign of oppression with a morality law that formalizes many of the rogue regime's policies restricting women's freedom. The law also gives the

government's morality police exceptional authority to deliver consequences to perceived violators. "Women may not speak, sing or laugh in public. Music is forbidden. Communal prayer is compulsory for men," Mr. Sopko said. The laws also forbid "friendships with nonbelievers," which he said makes it tougher for outside aid groups, whose employees may not be Muslim, to work inside the country. Harassment of aid groups is also on the rise and more than 80 programs have shut down operations, he said. The price tag for evacuation operations covered tens of thousands of Afghans the U.S. airlifted out

amid the chaotic troop withdrawal in the summer of 2021; the cost of housing them at "lily pad" locations overseas; housing them at military bases here; and payments to help them get settled in American communities. The inspector general said that included \$8.7 billion allocated to Operation Allies Welcome and \$5.3 billion for its successor operation, Enduring Welcome. Taxpayers have also shelled out \$3.2 billion in humanitarian assistance to Afghans still in the country since August 2021. And Uncle Sam has also authorized \$3.5 billion to fill the Afghan Central Bank's account.



HOUSE Republicans warn Smith on documents

Two House Republican committee chairmen called on special counsel Jack Smith to preserve all records of the Biden-Harris administration's prosecutions of President-elect Donald Trump. House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jim Jordan of Ohio and House Administration Subcommittee on Oversight Chairman Barry Loudermilk of Georgia sent a letter Friday to Mr. Smith. Justice Department officials are reviewing how to wind down the two federal criminal cases against Mr. Trump before he's sworn into office to comply with long-standing department policy that a sitting president cannot be prosecuted. — Kerry Pickett

Mr. Thune, who is the current GOP whip and previously chaired the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee, also agreed with Mr. Trump in an X post Sunday. "We must act quickly and decisively to get the president's nominees in place as soon as possible ... including recess appointments," he wrote. Mr. Cornyn said in his own X post Sunday that it "is unacceptable for Senate Ds to block-ade President @realDonaldTrump's cabinet appointments." — Mallory Wilson

SENATE Nevada Senate seat to Democrat Rosen

Democratic Sen. Jacky Rosen on Friday clinched her reelection to a second term in the Senate, clawing out a victory over Republican Sam Brown. She had a dominant cash advantage over Mr. Brown, a Trump-backed Army veteran, and used that edge to pour on attacks regarding abortion and accusing him of being a carpetbagger who only moved to Nevada in 2018. — Alex Miller

FEDERAL AGENCIES FEMA fires 'Skip Trump houses' staffer

The Federal Emergency Management Agency on Saturday fired the employee accused of ordering relief workers to skip homes in Florida that had signs supporting Donald Trump. "This type of behavior ... will not be tolerated at FEMA and we will hold people accountable," said FEMA Administrator Deanne Criswell. "This employee has been terminated." The employee, Marin'i Washington, told employees to "avoid homes advertising Trump" as they surveyed the damage by Hurricane Milton in Lake Placid, Florida. The workers were surveying the damage to identify which residents would require federal aid, according to a report in The Daily Wire. — Jeff Mordock



ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTOGRAPHS

"I will do my duty as president," President Biden said. Mr. Biden vowed that it would be peaceful. Mr. Biden is set to have a meeting with President-elect Donald Trump on Wednesday.

WHITE HOUSE Biden, Trump meeting at White House this week to discuss transition

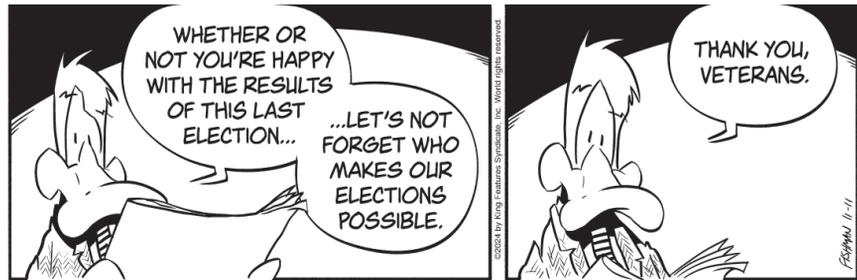
President Biden and President-elect Donald Trump will meet at the White House at 11 a.m. Wednesday, the White House said. On Thursday, Mr. Biden vowed to oversee "a peaceful and orderly" transfer of power. "I will do my duty as president," he said "On Jan. 20, we will have a peaceful transfer of power here in America." While Mr. Biden has pledged unity and bipartisanship in the wake of Vice President Kamala Harris' election loss, underneath the talk is a somewhat dour mood at the White House. Mr. Biden has said the reason he ran for president in the first place was because of the danger of Mr. Trump's MAGA



Trump

Republicans. Mr. Biden and his staffers have said he intends to attend Mr. Trump's inauguration. "We accept the choice the country made," Mr. Biden said. "I've said many times, you can't love your country only when you win. You can't love your neighbor only when you agree." The White House staff has already pushed the Trump team to sign the required federal agreements necessary to start the orderly transition of presidential power. — Jeff Mordock

MALLARD FILLMORE / Bruce Tinsley



The Washington Times

The Washington Times (ISSN 0732-8494) is published Monday through Friday. © 2024 by The Washington Times, LLC, 3600 New York Avenue, NE, Washington, D.C., 20002

GENERAL AND NEWS 202/636-3000
ADVERTISING Advocacy and Political: 202/636-3062
CIRCULATION DEPARTMENT 202/636-3333 or 800/277-8500

SUBSCRIPTION RATES Home Delivery: \$260/year. Digital edition: \$99.95/year. Single copy: \$1.50 Monday-Friday.
nexus.com), 800/543-6862; NewsBank (www.newsbank.com), 800/762-8182; Dialog (www.dialog.com), 800/334-2564; and Dow Jones Factiva (www.factiva.com), 800/223-2274.

Politics

INVESTIGATION

Smith winding down cases ahead of Trump's inauguration

By Tom Howell Jr.
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

A federal judge has granted special counsel Jack Smith's request to cancel pretrial deadlines in the election subversion case against President-elect Donald Trump as the government finds a way to deal with his victory and looming inauguration.

Mr. Smith is winding down his cases against Mr. Trump because of a policy that dictates sitting

presidents aren't liable for criminal prosecution.

A motion filed with U.S. District Judge Tanya Chutkan on Friday said the government is deliberating its steps ahead of the Jan. 6 certification of Mr. Trump's win and the Jan. 20 inauguration.

"The government respectfully requests that the court vacate the remaining deadlines in the pretrial schedule to afford the government time to assess this unprecedented circumstance and

determine the appropriate course going forward consistent with Department of Justice policy," Mr. Smith wrote.

The motion said government prosecutors will update the court on its deliberations by Dec. 2 and that Mr. Trump's attorneys didn't object to the request to cancel looming filing deadlines.

Judge Chutkan granted the request Friday shortly after it was filed.

Mr. Smith secured an

indictment alleging Mr. Trump conspired against the U.S. and its voters through his actions to contest his 2020 election loss to President Biden.

The trial in the case was delayed by a Supreme Court decision that held presidents couldn't be prosecuted for official acts. The ruling didn't kill the case, though Mr. Trump's victory over Vice President Kamala Harris probably will.

Mr. Trump's Justice

Department is expected to fire Mr. Smith and terminate the case, alongside a federal case over classified documents in Florida.

Other cases are more complicated. Mr. Trump faces sentencing in Manhattan on Nov. 26 for his conviction on 34 felony counts of falsifying business records.

New York Supreme Court Judge Juan Merchan is scheduled to decide on Tuesday whether Mr. Trump's convictions should be annulled due to the U.S. Supreme

Court's ruling on presidential immunity.

If the convictions remain in place, Mr. Trump's legal team is expected to seek a delay in Mr. Trump's sentencing, given his status as president-elect.

It's unclear what Judge Merchan will do. He could choose to sentence Mr. Trump before the inauguration, though he might be receptive to a delay amid the sensitivity of punishing a president-elect.



Sen. Eric Schmitt of Missouri is under consideration to lead the Justice Department under the incoming Trump administration.

WHITE HOUSE

Attorney general options being weighed

Trump considering at least three candidates for top position

By Alex Swoyer
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

President-elect Donald Trump is looking to fill hundreds of top positions in his incoming administration during the next two months — but one of the most coveted, flash point slots is that of attorney general.

The former president is considering at least three individuals to be the nation's top cop, according to sources familiar with the discussions.

Sen. Eric Schmitt, Missouri Republican, has been seen traveling the campaign trail with Mr. Trump and has the experience of serving as a state attorney general for four years.

From campaign rallies to a golf course, the two men have been seen photographed together.

Before being elected to the Senate, Mr. Schmitt was state attorney general from 2019 to 2023. He led the major lawsuit against the Biden administration for pressuring social media companies to censor posts related to COVID-19 and comments about the 2020 election.

That lawsuit became known as *Murphy v. Missouri*, which made its way to the high court earlier this year. The justices did not settle whether there was a First Amendment violation,

and instead ruled the red states that had brought the challenge lacked standing, or sufficient legal injury, to bring the case.

Mr. Schmitt is not the only state attorney general under consideration to lead the Justice Department.

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton is also being considered by Mr. Trump.

He's served as the attorney general of Texas for nine years and has become a conservative leader challenging LGBTQ policies and abortion in the courts.

Mr. Paxton also has led a coalition of states in court opposing the Biden administration's immigration policies. Mr. Trump is promising to implement a sweeping get-tough approach to illegal immigration, including tighter security along the southern border and mass deportations.

He has long supported Mr. Trump, speaking at his Jan. 6, 2021, "Stop the Steal" rally in protest of the 2020 election, and filed a lawsuit of *Texas v. Pennsylvania*, which challenged the election results. That lawsuit was rejected by the Supreme Court.

Mark Paoletta, an attorney who worked as chief counsel to Vice President Mike Pence and later as general counsel for the Office of Management

and Budget, is also a name that has been pushed by one of Mr. Trump's legal advisers.

Mr. Paoletta previously represented Virginia "Ginni" Thomas, wife of Justice Clarence Thomas, during the scrutiny over the Jan. 6 riot by members of Congress. Ms. Thomas attended Mr. Trump's Stop the Steal rally but did not go to the U.S. Capitol where a riot broke out.

Mr. Paoletta is known to be a close confidant of Justice Thomas.

In a social media post, Mr. Paoletta said that Mr. Trump "will not use the DOJ for political purposes" but rather for "implementing his agenda." He was pushing back on a CNN report that the Justice Department historically has been "independent."

"The President has a duty to supervise the types of cases DOJ should focus on and can intervene to direct DOJ on specific cases," Mr. Paoletta wrote. "He is the duly elected chief executive and he has every right to make sure the executive branch, including the DOJ, is implementing his agenda."

He said, "For example, the President could direct DOJ to significantly increase resources to prosecute criminals at the highest charging level and to

seek maximum sentences, devote maximum resources to deporting illegal aliens, act against sanctuary cities who defy and obstruct federal law enforcement efforts, and seek restoration of death penalty in all possible cases for horrific crimes, including for drug trafficking and child molestation and rape."

He also echoed Mr. Trump's assertions that the Biden Justice Department brought two criminal cases against Mr. Trump in a failed attempt to derail his presidential candidacy.

"Democrats went after President Trump solely to punish him because he was a political opponent," Mr. Paoletta wrote. "They invented crimes, twisted statutes, abused their offices and power, all to stop him and destroy him. Thanks to President Trump's fortitude and perseverance, they failed."

Those three potential candidates are reportedly not the only names under consideration for the nation's top law enforcement post.

Sen. Mike Lee, Utah Republican; Kansas Attorney General Kris Kobach, and Missouri Attorney General Andrew Bailey, who succeeded Mr. Schmitt, are also under consideration, according to *The Wall Street Journal*.

IMMIGRATION

Judge strikes down 'parole' deportation amnesty program

Ruling another blow to White House

By Stephen Dinan
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

President Biden stretched the law with his "parole" program to give special breaks to immigrants who are in the country illegally and married to U.S. citizens, a federal judge has ruled.

The ruling is another blow to Mr. Biden's plans to try to give migrants protections against a future administration's deportation plans.

U.S. District Judge Campbell Barker said Thursday the administration took a law designed to grant leniency to unauthorized migrants who showed up at the border with exceptional cases, such as medical emergencies, and turned it into a mass-for-giveness for immigrants who'd already been living here illegally for a decade.

The program had been on hold but Judge Barker, in his new ruling, struck down the policy altogether.

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, who led the lawsuit, said it was a needed rebuke for Mr. Biden.

"Once again we have stopped the Biden-Harris administration's radical attempts to destroy America's borders and undermine the rule of law," he said. "I look forward to the day when the federal government starts following the law again."

Mr. Biden had announced the program this summer, saying it would cover about a half-million unauthorized immigrants married to U.S. citizens, and also cover about 50,000 children of the migrant spouses.

The administration justified the program by saying the unauthorized immigrants already have a pathway to citizenship through their marriage, but in the usual course of events they would have to return to their home country to complete that path.

Mr. Biden said his parole program would allow them to stay in the U.S. and complete the

process from here without taking the risk of going home and being blocked from coming back.

Judge Barker said that might be a good policy goal, but he said the parole law written by Congress doesn't stretch that far.

Under the law, parole is only to be granted on a case-by-case basis in exceptional circumstances, such as when someone needs an emergency medical procedure or the government wants to use the person in a criminal investigation.

Judge Barker said the law also only applies to newcomers at the border.

Mr. Biden's program, though, applied to migrants who'd been in the country for at least a decade.

Judge Barker, who sits in eastern Texas, also said the migrants never had to prove they were facing exceptional circumstances.

"The Rule exceeds statutory authority and is not in accordance with law for this reason as well," he wrote.

Immigration advocates called the decision a "blow" to the migrants' hopes, and urged an appeal.

"It's far past time for our leaders to stop playing politics with people's lives, and for the courts to rectify this injustice," said Murad Awawdeh, president of the New York Immigration Coalition.

If the administration were to appeal, it would likely be short-lived, given the looming Trump administration, which would almost certainly cancel the appeal.

Mr. Biden has been profligate with his use of parole, using it to welcome millions of unauthorized migrants over his term.

Among his parole programs is one for Afghan evacuees; one for Ukrainians; one for Venezuelans, Cubans, Haitians and Nicaraguans; and one for migrants of varying nationalities who show up in northern Mexico and pre-schedule their arrivals at the U.S. border.

Thursday's ruling doesn't affect those programs.

SENATE

Rubio claims McCormick not invited to orientation because rival hasn't conceded

By Mallory Wilson
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Sen. Marco Rubio is calling hypocrisy after he claims Senate Majority Leader Charles E. Schumer is icing out Pennsylvania Sen.-elect Dave McCormick from the Senate orientation later this week since his Democratic opponent still hasn't conceded.

"Schumer [New York Democrat] is not allowing @DaveMcCormickPA to participate in Senate orientation this week because [Democratic Pennsylvania Sen. Bob] Casey refuses to concede the race. What happened to all the demands that our leaders accept the outcome of the elections?" Mr. Rubio, a Republican,

wrote on X Sunday.

Democrats had raised concerns about President-elect Donald Trump not conceding the race if he lost this go around. He still has yet to say that he lost the 2020 election to President Biden. Vice President Kamala Harris, who lost the election to Mr. Trump, said in her speech that she would work with Mr. Biden to facilitate a peaceful transfer of power.

Mr. Casey has held his Senate seat since 2007. The Associated Press called the race in favor of Mr. McCormick, a Republican, on Thursday but Mr. Casey refuses to give it up.

"Each day, counties across the Commonwealth are confirming

there are more ballots that need to be counted. We know there are more than 100,000 ballots left to be counted including tens of thousands of provisional ballots in counties favorable to Senator Casey, and the McCormick campaign has acknowledged these provisional ballots could impact the outcome of the election while pursuing unsuccessful lawsuits to get them thrown out," Maddy McDaniel, spokesperson for the Casey campaign told the Pennsylvania Capital-Star on Sunday in a statement. "Pennsylvanians deserve to have their voices heard, and as state officials have made clear, counties across Pennsylvania need more time to tabulate remaining votes."



Republican Pennsylvania Senate candidate Dave McCormick's Democratic rival Sen. Bob Casey hasn't yet conceded the race.

But Mr. McCormick already gave his victory speech on Friday, and on Sunday said there was no path for Mr. Casey to win.

"Well the AP called this race a number of days ago because,

mathematically, there's no path for Sen. Casey to win. Currently, I'm up by something like 40,000 votes, which is a very significant margin," he said on Fox News' "Sunday Morning Futures."

"And, ultimately, Sen. Casey's going to have to decide when he's ready to acknowledge that. I lost a close election by 900 votes in 2022. I know it's tough to do that," he said. "So, Sen. Casey has all the prerogatives that he wishes to come to the right conclusion. But the good news is the math doesn't work except in my favor, and that's why I'm moving forward."

As of Sunday, the race is 99% reported, with Mr. McCormick leading with 49% to Mr. Casey's 48.4%. The Senate seat was a key race for Democrats, who have already lost the majority of the Senate to Republicans.

The Washington Times has reached out to Mr. Schumer for comment.

HOUSE

Gluesenkamp Perez wins second term in Trump territory

Polled ahead of Harris; defeated Kent in rematch

By LINDSEY MCPHERSON
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Washington Democratic Rep. Marie Gluesenkamp Perez won reelection to a second term Tuesday, denying Republicans a key seat they hoped to flip to expand their narrow majority.

Ms. Gluesenkamp Perez won Washington's 3rd District in a rematch against Republican Joe Kent, who served as a foreign policy adviser to former President Donald Trump after time in the Special Forces and as a CIA field operative.

Republicans hoped that Mr. Trump's presence on the ballot this year would help Mr. Kent win

in the southwestern Washington district, which the former president carried by 4 points in 2020.

In another setback to the House GOP, one of the most vulnerable congressional Democrats survived into a second-round tabulation of the ranked choice vote in Maine.

The votes will be redistributed in the contest between Democratic Rep. Jared Golden and Republican state Rep. Austin Theriault, who both had just shy of 49% of the vote. When no candidate gets 50%, the votes are redistributed minus the candidate with the fewest votes.

Mr. Golden and Mr. Theriault were the only candidates on the ballot, but anti-Gaza war

candidate Diana Merenda ran an organized write-in candidacy and garnered several hundred votes. The second choice of any voters who left their first choice blank will also be counted.

The results of Maine's second round tabulation are expected this week.

House Republicans are now just five seats away from keeping the majority, but several key races remain extremely tight as the vote counting drags on.

In Washington, Ms. Gluesenkamp Perez eked out her 2022 win against Mr. Kent by less than a percentage point, but she was on track to exceed that margin this year when The Associated Press



"It's not about the message. It's about my loyalty to my community," said Rep. Marie Gluesenkamp Perez.

called the race with her leading by 4 points.

The 3rd District includes

Vancouver and other communities along the Columbia River that serve as Washington's border with Oregon, as well as more rural areas to the north.

Ms. Gluesenkamp Perez, who ran well ahead of Democratic presidential nominee Vice President Kamala Harris, told The New York Times that she refused to let her race become nationalized.

"It's not about the message. It's about my loyalty to my community," she said. "The messenger is the message in a lot of ways. My awareness of my community has been durable, and it's reflective in my vote record. That is a huge asset."

Ms. Gluesenkamp Perez accused some Democratic elected officials of being too "calloused" and disrespecting ordinary people.

She told a story about meeting Ms. Harris at her Naval Observatory Christmas party and commenting on the plastic decorations, telling the vice president that farmers in her district grow Christmas trees.

"She just walked away from me. There was kind of an eye roll, maybe," the Washington Democrat said. "My thinking was, it does matter to people where I live. It's the respect, the cultural regard for farmers. I didn't feel like she understood what I was trying to say."

Ms. Gluesenkamp Perez said fixing the Democratic Party will "take parents of young kids, people in rural communities, people in the trades running for office and being taken seriously."

• Alex Miller contributed to this report.

Jail for sharing a Bible verse? Terrifying persecution case should rattle the world

The terrifying, anti-freedom forces at work in the world today are rapidly intensifying, with basic liberties falling victim to radical ideologies and secular fervor.

Even in America — a nation with an enshrined First Amendment that offers religious freedom — we've seen blatant attempts to restrict sovereignty and banish faith from the public square.

The battles have persisted, with citizens such as Colorado baker Jack Phillips spending years in courtroom fights to operate their businesses in accordance with their religious beliefs.

In Mr. Phillips' case, the Christian baker declined to make a cake for a same-sex wedding and then, separately, a cake celebrating a gender transition. He recently scored a victory in the legal volley, but the arduous fight is enough to alarm any freedom-loving person.

Then there's former football coach Joe Kennedy, who, in 2022, achieved a 6-3



Supreme Court victory in Kennedy v. Bremerton School District, after he was fired for praying on the 50-yard line after public school football games. His right to pray was ultimately upheld, but not without a fight.

And while these victories matter and offer glimmers of hope, a case in Finland should send chills down the spines of freedom-loving people across the globe.

Paivi Rasanen, a member of the Finnish Parliament who previously served as the nation's interior secretary, has spent years in court after being brought up on hate crimes charges simply for expressing her Christian beliefs.

Ms. Rasanen's offense? On June 17, 2019, she tweeted words from Romans 1:24-27, Scriptures that set moral parameters around

homosexuality. At the time, the politician questioned the Evangelical Lutheran Church's support for a Pride parade.

"Some citizen made a criminal complaint and the police started to investigate the case," she told The Washington Times' Higher Ground, saying that the investigation initially seemed absurd. "At the beginning, I didn't believe it."

But Ms. Rasanen was soon hauled before police and interrogated for 13 hours, with officers asking about her theological and biblical beliefs.

In addition to Ms. Rasanen's tweet, a pamphlet she wrote on marriage 20 years ago and an interview she did sharing her views on matrimony also came into play, landing her with criminal charges and potential jail time for her supposed thought crimes.

"It was a very absurd and very unreal situation," she said. "It was like a dream. I couldn't believe that this

happens in Finland, which has long roots in Christianity and good reputation in rule of law and so on."

But the 13-hour interrogation over her Christian views was just the beginning, as prosecutors' charges landed Ms. Rasanen at the center of two court battles that made international news.

"They are accusing me of breaking ... the law about agitation against minorities," she said. "We have that kind of law in Finland, as in almost all European countries, and so, it can bring up to two years [in] jail or heavy fines, and it is some kind of hate speech law."

Ms. Rasanen has denied saying or doing anything rooted in hatred or disdain and has pledged to continue fighting her case. So far, she has won both the initial case as well as the prosecutor's appeal — but it's not over.

Remarkably, after two embarrassing losses, prosecutors are forging on, appealing the case to Finland's Supreme Court. Even the secular

media in Finland realize the absurdity of the effort, dubbing it the "Bible trial," as most realize authorities are taking aim at Scripture itself.

The move to take the case to the Supreme Court has been shocking to Ms. Rasanen, who said she had "very clear acquittals" from the six judges involved in the two previous cases.

"They didn't find any crime from my writings, and, in fact, they proved that many of these accusations ... they were lies," Ms. Rasanen said.

But she fights on and is hoping her refusal to give up or give in to pressure will help create a precedent that protects other Christians.

"I'm now praying and hoping that I would get the third victory because it would give a very strong precedent, a legal guide for the future," Ms. Rasanen added, expressing worries over what a loss might mean. "I think that it would have very, very dangerous consequences. ... It would start the time of

persecution of Christians in Finland and in European countries, because ... it would mean that you are not anymore allowed to agree publicly with the Bible."

Ms. Rasanen is right. If she loses, it would send a demonic Bat Signal of sorts to the forces in Europe and around the globe who seek to hamper religious liberty and, in particular, Christian expression. There's much on the line, and Ms. Rasanen's bravery is commendable.

"I will stand on these biblical teachings," she declared. "And I have had ... very strong feelings that this has been in God's hands. This has been my calling. ... We need to fight for these freedoms."

Let's pray for Ms. Rasanen as she prepares to fight at Finland's Supreme Court, and let's hope rationality triumphs.

• Billy Hallowell is a digital TV host and interviewer for Faithwire and CBN News and the co-host of CBN's "Quick Start Podcast." He is the author of four books.

HARRIS

From page A1

have not been called.

As Mr. Trump prepares to visit the White House on Wednesday at President Biden's invitation, his transition team has moved into high gear on personnel decisions.

Mr. Trump said Sunday that Senate Republicans' next leader should accept "recess appointments," or temporary appointments when the Senate is not in session, without the chamber's formal approval.

"Any Republican Senator seeking the coveted LEADERSHIP position in the United States Senate must agree to Recess Appointments (in the Senate!), without which we will not be able to get people confirmed in a timely manner," Mr. Trump wrote on X. "Sometimes the votes can take two years, or more. This is what they did four years ago, and we cannot let it happen again."

Senate Republicans will vote on their new leader this week. Mr. Trump has not endorsed anyone. Sen. John Thune of South Dakota, one of the candidates for majority leader, seemed to embrace Mr. Trump's demand.

"We must act quickly and decisively to get the president's nominees in place as soon as possible, & all options are on the table to make that happen, including recess appointments," Mr. Thune posted on X. "We cannot let Schumer and Senate Dems block the will of the American people."

Mr. Trump announced late Saturday that he wouldn't ask two Cabinet members from his first term, former Ambassador Nikki Haley and former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, to join his new administration.

"I very much enjoyed and appreciated working with them previously, and would like to thank them for their service to our Country. MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN!" he posted on social media.

Mr. Trump's convincing win and gains with voters who traditionally favor Democrats have some top Democratic officials wondering how Ms. Harris'

campaign squandered its war chest.

Democratic National Committee finance committee member Lindy Li called Ms. Harris' loss a "\$1 billion disaster."

"The truth is, this is just an epic disaster," Ms. Li said of the Harris campaign on "Fox & Friends" on Saturday. "They're \$20 million or \$18 million in debt. It's incredible, and I raised millions of that."

Sen.-elect Dave McCormick, a Pennsylvania Republican who defeated three-term Democrat Bob Casey, said the election was ground-shifting. Mr. Casey has yet to concede.

"The old lines between Democrats and Republicans are becoming very blurred," Mr. McCormick told host Maria Bartiromo on "Sunday Morning Futures" on Fox News Channel. "We really are the party that's representing working families, and it's no surprise that people want change because, under the failed leadership of Harris and Bob Casey and others, the economy, the border, crime, it's all gone in the wrong direction."

Headed into Election Day, voters consistently cited inflation and the economy as their top issues. Of the 31% who listed the economy as their top issue, 79% voted for Mr. Trump, according to CNN exit polling.

Among voters who earn less than \$50,000 annually, roughly 50% voted for Mr. Trump and 48% voted for Ms. Harris. Ms. Harris fared better with voters earning \$100,000 or more, 51% to 46%.

The Democratic ticket dropped 16 percentage points from 2020 among voters of color without a college degree. A CNN exit poll found that Mr. Trump maintained his advantage among White men and women without a college degree in the 2020 and 2024 races.

"Millions of hardworking, middle-class families donated to Kamala's campaign," said Republican Party strategist Jimmy Keady, but instead of connecting with those voters, she brought out pop stars in a move that showed Democrats are "out of touch with middle America."

Even some in the Democratic Party establishment concluded that Ms. Harris' campaign failed to appeal to

working-class voters.

"It should come as no great surprise that a Democratic Party which has abandoned working class people would find that the working class abandoned them," Sen. Bernard Sanders, Vermont independent, said in a scathing statement. "First, it was the White working class, and now it is Latino and Black workers as well."

White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said she "respectfully" disagreed with Ms. Sanders' assessment. Democratic National Committee Chair Jamie Harrison rebuked the senator's claims.

In a post on X, Mr. Harrison said Mr. Biden was the "most pro-worker president of my lifetime" and Ms. Harris' economic proposals would have "fundamentally transformed the quality of life and closed the racial wealth gap for working people across the country."

In August, Ms. Harris proposed banning "price-gouging" by grocery stores and food suppliers to lower the costs of housing, medicine and food. Under the plan, Ms. Harris would have authorized the Federal Trade Commission to impose "harsh penalties" on corporations found to have fixed prices.

She never defined the plan or explained how it would lower prices. Some economists said it would have the opposite effect because it would reduce competition by artificially lowering profit margins. They argued that competition is what keeps prices low in the first place.

Republicans compared the idea to Soviet-style price controls. Once the criticism mounted, Ms. Harris downplayed and distanced herself from the idea.

"I kept waiting for her to follow up on her [anti-price-gouging] proposal, but she never did, and I think that's an issue that could have won her more support among voters concerned about inflation," Mr. Bannon said. "She never drove the issue home. Instead, she rolled out Taylor Swift to talk about the decline of democracy. She didn't address the No. 1 concern of the voters."

Ms. Harris also proposed building more housing to reduce residential costs and expanding the child tax credit, which

she said would offset higher prices, but she offered few details.

In her "closing argument" speech on the Ellipse in Washington, Ms. Harris never uttered the words "inflation" or "economy." Instead, she mentioned Mr. Trump 27 times and either "abortion" or "reproductive rights" five times.

During his closing argument at Madison Square Garden, Mr. Trump mentioned "inflation" once and the economy 12 times.

David Dix, a Democratic strategist, said the party shouldn't be surprised that it has been perceived as out of touch. He said Democrats haven't had a real primary process since Barack Obama's presidential campaign in 2008. Since then, the party elites have pushed Hillary Clinton, Mr. Biden and Ms. Harris in front of voters, he said.

"It's been an elite group of folks picking these candidates for over a decade, and that disconnects you with the grassroots voters," he said. "Vice President Harris didn't have to go through the party primary to be the nominee. The problem with that is it helps you message test what resonates."

Mr. Dix said the campaign's overreliance on celebrity endorsements from Beyonce, Cardi B, Oprah and others showed it was "disconnected from the grassroots." He said it was striking that none of the celebrities attended Ms. Harris' election night watch party at Howard University.

"It says that they weren't in it for the campaign; they were in it for the appearance. That made them ring hollow," he said. "When you are trying to connect with the American people, you need to show some empathy and say, 'I have a path.'"

Voters held Ms. Harris responsible for inflation, a residual effect of Mr. Biden's unpopularity. Poll after poll showed that the economy was the main issue. Most voters had a favorable opinion of Mr. Trump's economy, and voters trusted Mr. Trump more than either Mr. Biden or Ms. Harris on the economy.

Mr. Biden remains one of the least popular presidents in modern history because of his age and the soaring cost

of living. Ms. Harris couldn't blame Mr. Biden for inflation without raising questions about her role in his policies. She was left flat-footed and unprepared when asked how she would differentiate herself from the president.

When asked on ABC's "The View" what she would have done differently than Mr. Biden, Ms. Harris said she couldn't think of anything. The unprepared answer gave the Trump campaign the chance to tie her to the president's unpopularity.

It also left her without a scapegoat for soaring inflation, primarily linked to Mr. Biden's rampant government spending. During his first three years in office, Mr. Biden approved several massive spending bills, causing the national debt to jump by \$6.25 trillion. Rising debt reduces business investment and slows economic growth, increasing inflation.

Other economists say global supply-chain shortages during the acute pandemic period also drove high prices.

Instead of blaming her boss, Ms. Harris pointed the finger at corporate greed. As the campaign continued, however, Ms. Harris turned to billionaire surrogates such as Mark Cuban, Bill Gates, Warren Buffet and J.P. Morgan's Jamie Dimon. An analysis by Forbes found that 83 billionaires supported Harris, compared with 52 who backed Mr. Trump. Many came from Silicon Valley.

With those surrogates firmly entrenched in her camp, Ms. Harris dropped the argument about corporate greed and looked even more out of touch and elitist.

Mr. Keady, the Republican strategist, said cozying up to billionaires made it hard for Ms. Harris to connect to working Americans.

"From the lack of union support to the loss of manufacturing jobs, working middle-class families are abandoning the Democratic Party for the business and worker-friendly policies of the Republican Party," he said. "We saw this firsthand in states like Wisconsin, Pennsylvania and Michigan that flipped on Tuesday."

• Mallory Wilson and Alex Miller contributed to this report.

FBI

From page A1

source said. “Trump will say, ‘Yeah, fire his a--. Don’t let him take the plane home.’”

Mr. Comey learned about his termination while flying to California on the bureau’s airplane.

Mr. Trump appointed Mr. Wray as FBI director in 2017 after firing Mr. Comey. The director’s term is 10 years, depending on the president’s confidence.

Sources say others on the seventh floor of the FBI are so concerned about their jobs that they are likely to flood Washington’s private security job market.

Most of the sources said no one’s job in the FBI at a GS-14 level or higher is safe, and they fully expect Mr. Trump to “smash the place to pieces when he gets in” and that it will be a “bloodbath.”

Former FBI whistleblower George Hill told The Washington Times that people in the agency say the state of the FBI is “frazzled.”

“I have friends still at the bureau telling me that no less than 50 senior executives (SES) are scrambling to retire ASAP,” he said.

The Times reached out to the FBI for comment.

The FBI and Mr. Trump have had a tense history since the 2016 presidential campaign. Under Mr. Comey, the agency launched its Crossfire Hurricane investigation of the Trump campaign’s alleged links to Russia in July 2016.

Mr. Trump’s firing of Mr. Comey in 2017 raised suspicions in the Justice Department that the president was obstructing justice, leading to special counsel Robert Mueller’s long-running and costly investigation. Mr. Mueller ultimately found no evidence that Trump campaign officials conspired with or were connected to Moscow.

A subsequent government watchdog investigation found that FBI officials made numerous errors or omissions in secret warrant applications for surveillance of a Trump campaign aide.

More recently, The Times exclusively reported about an FBI whistleblower’s

protected disclosure to Congress that Mr. Comey launched an off-the-books undercover criminal investigation against Mr. Trump in June 2015. The operation was not predicated on any particular case and was not connected to Russia.

Mr. Trump also clashed with FBI Deputy Director Andrew McCabe, who was fired in 2018 hours before his retirement. Mr. McCabe became a cable news analyst who was highly critical of Mr. Trump.

In August 2022, the FBI executed a search warrant at Mr. Trump’s Mar-a-Lago resort home in Florida and seized documents. Subsequent criminal charges accused him of mishandling classified materials. That prosecution is now in jeopardy because of Mr. Trump’s reelection.

Many at the FBI remembered when Border Patrol Chief Mark Morgan, a longtime FBI official, resigned six months into 2017 after Mr. Trump took office. Mr. Trump later hired him to head Immigration Customs and Enforcement.

Many on the seventh floor of the

FBI are also concerned about billionaire technology executive Elon Musk, owner of X and Tesla, joining the Trump administration as head of a government efficiency commission.

“When he tries to do efficiency at headquarters, the place is going to have five people ... if he’s talking about a lot of dead weight,” a second FBI source said.

“Try to find a person that’s actually working,” the source said. “That may be the biggest problem there — that there’s no efficiency. So that’s actually the bigger threat. If you’re going to try to make the government efficient, you would start with the FBI because if you do politics all the time, you’re probably bloated.”

FBI agents spent much of their time during the Biden administration seeking out, investigating and arresting Jan. 6 defendants. Mr. Trump has pledged to pardon them at the beginning of his second term.

A third FBI source said some bureau personnel tired of the Jan. 6 investigations are amused “at the fact that Trump [likely] pardons everybody involved in Jan. 6.”

BROTHEL

From page A1

accusations with phone records, financial records and corroborating information provided by the patrons to the brothel operators, according to court records. Han Lee, one of the accused managers, pleaded guilty in September to running the prostitution ring, including the Virginia brothels.

Federal prosecutors have a phone used by the managers of the Virginia brothels to arrange for the sex buyers to engage in prostitution, according to the indictment from the U.S. attorney for the District of Massachusetts.

The U.S. attorney’s office said in a press release on Oct. 31 that two cellphones used for the Virginia and Massachusetts brothels each “contained over 2,800 verified customers of the prostitution business.” The statement said an additional cellphone for the Virginia sex ring was never obtained.

One client who visited the Virginia brothels used his LinkedIn profile to verify his identity to the pimps and prostitutes, according to a sworn affidavit from Homeland Security Investigations Special Agent Zachary Mitlitsky. The affidavit said the customer used his social media profile and a selfie photograph to help the sex workers confirm the information he submitted through the brothel’s website.

The affidavit also includes images of text messages between the pimps and sex customers discussing various prostitutes and prices of services.

Junmyung Lee, the “booker” responsible for vetting the johns and scheduling the prostitution, has pleaded guilty in federal court in Boston to helping operate the brothels and faces up to 25 years in prison when he is sentenced in February.

Possible ‘honeypot’?

Concerns have been raised that some of the Virginia brothels’ more than 5,000 clients, many in sensitive posts, had been used to steal government secrets or gather information for blackmail.

As news of the prostitution ring spread, the Beltway has buzzed with speculation that the brothels may have served as foreign “honeypots” — schemes to entice powerful johns and obtain valuable information. The brothels in Fairfax and Tysons are short drives away from the campuses of U.S. military and intelligence agencies and their contractors in Northern Virginia.

Han Lee, the manager who pleaded guilty in September, was born in South Korea and first came to the United States in 2014, according to Mr. Mitlitsky’s affidavit. She applied for permanent residency in 2019 after marrying an American citizen.

The indictment alleges that the brothel operators bought a website and secured the Virginia locations in 2021. The operators communicated with the prostitutes over a Korean messaging application.

Before the brothels were shuttered last year, a South Korean national whose identity is redacted from the affidavit visited the U.S., opened a Bank of America account and returned to South Korea, according to the affidavit. Ms. Lee was monitored using the unidentified person’s new account and was later observed sending \$90,000 to a bank account in her own name in South Korea.

Whether the prostitution ring has connections to any foreign government or transnational criminal organization is unclear. The federal prosecutors’ indictment said the ring’s purpose was to engage in interstate and foreign commerce.

The Justice Department referred questions about the Virginia brothels and about national security concerns to the office of the U.S. attorney for the District of Massachusetts, which declined to answer.

Although the sex customers may avoid state charges in Virginia, federal employees may face additional scrutiny from their agencies depending on their clearance levels and their access to national security information.

The Washington area has a long history with brothels. Mr. Mitlitsky said one of the Virginia brothels was at Unit 245 of the luxury Avalon Mosaic Apartments.

Five years ago, Fairfax police reportedly arrested two people running a prostitution ring in the same apartment complex. Prosecutors have not asserted any connection between these prostitution cases.

The U.S. government has sometimes sought to benefit from illegal brothels. Robert K. Sutton, a retired National Park Service historian, said this year that American officials rewarded a German official informing on the Nazis during World War II with a trip to a brothel in Washington.

Mr. Sutton told the “True Spies” podcast that the American officials grew concerned when police raided the brothel with the German source inside. The police raid soon stopped.

“It turned out there were also a lot of senators and a congressman there,” Mr. Sutton told the podcast.

PETS

From page A1

associated with Ms. Harris than Mr. Trump.

Some 55% said they supported continuing U.S. aid to Ukraine in its war with Russia, and 53% said they opposed a ban on abortions after 15 weeks into a pregnancy. More than 60% said they support legalizing marijuana use nationwide, and 52% said they oppose laws in Republican-leaning states restricting gender treatment drugs for juveniles who identify as transgender.

Half the voters in the CNN poll said they want the government “more involved” in imposing vaccine mandates on children, while just 26% wanted less involvement.

Voters were about evenly divided on Mr. Trump’s idea of raising tariffs on foreign imports and equally split on President Biden’s student loan cancellation programs.

They tacked heavily in favor of Mr. Trump’s positions on the border. A startling 67% said they wanted the U.S. to cut the number of people using the asylum system to enter the country, according to the Fox survey.

The CNN exit poll asked whether illegal immigrants should be deported or given a path to “legal status,” and 56% backed the amnesty option.

Democrats’ attempts to argue that Mr. Trump was a unique threat to democracy fell flat. Although 73% of voters in CNN’s exit poll said democracy in the U.S. was “threatened,” Mr. Trump won them 51% to 48%.

Pollsters delved deeply into voters’ identities.

Fox said 10% of voters were Hispanic, and half those were of Mexican origin. Just 2% were Middle Eastern or North African, and they broke for Ms. Harris 49% to 45%.

Fox said 8% of voters identified as



Dog owners, particularly men, were more likely to vote for Republican Donald Trump over Democrat Kamala Harris in the presidential election last week.

LBGTQ, and Ms. Harris won that demographic 86% to 13%. CNN’s polling put the figure at 9% of the electorate, with Ms. Harris winning them 78% to 20%.

The Fox survey found that 28% of Election Day voters were regular users of TikTok, the social media platform popular among younger adults. Ms. Harris won a majority of their vote with 53%, but Mr. Trump was close at 46%.

The pet ownership questions were new to Fox’s survey and were perhaps prompted by Vice President-elect J.D. Vance’s comment years ago that Ms. Harris was part of a cabal of “childless cat ladies.” Pro-Harris signs with pictures of cats quickly sprung up in deep-blue neighborhoods, and singer Taylor Swift, in endorsing Ms. Harris, associated herself with the cat ladies.

The Guardian newspaper headlined a story before Election Day pondering whether Mr. Vance’s remark could “hold the key to the U.S. election.”

Exit polling shows it was not a key.

Female cat owners backed the vice president 53% to 46%, but Mr. Trump won male cat owners 54% to 45%. The survey did not break those down into parents and child-free.

Dog owners may have been more decisive, with half the electorate saying they had a canine companion.

The men among them gave Mr. Trump a 16-point advantage, and he won over female dog owners by 4 points. Voters who did not have dogs went for Ms. Harris 53% to 45%.

The data punctured some conventional wisdom about the election.

Muslim voters, for example, did not abandon Democrats in droves despite Mr. Biden’s handling of Israel’s war with Hamas.

Fox’s survey showed that Muslims represented about 1% of the electorate and voted for Ms. Harris by a 63% to 32% margin. That was not substantially

different from Mr. Biden’s 64% to 35% margin in 2020, though the share of Muslims who voted for an independent or third-party candidate did rise from 1% in 2020 to 4% this year.

In 2020, in an election held under the strict limits of the COVID-19 pandemic and months into a searing national conversation about race after the death of George Floyd and subsequent riots, 72% of voters said racism in policing was a serious issue.

Four years later, that slipped to 67%. Meanwhile, confidence in elections tumbled.

In 2020, 84% of voters were confident that eligible voters could cast ballots. This year, that was 90%.

Amid worries about noncitizen voting, Fox and AP added a question this year about confidence that ineligible voters could be kept out of the polling place. Voters were less sure, with 68% saying they felt confident in election integrity.

MILITARY

From page A1

paychecks remain the best way to attract and retain talent. The incentive question has taken on an even more vital role as all the military branches have faced rising recruitment difficulties and missed manpower targets in recent years.

“There is a lot of evidence over many years, in many studies, that people respond to monetary incentives,” said Beth J. Asch, a senior economist at the Rand Corp. who studies military recruiting and pay.

“Some people will join the military not because of the money but service to the country, patriotism. This doesn’t deny that,” she said in an interview. “It doesn’t mean everybody is motivated by money. It means the evidence shows that at the margin, when they increase pay, we see more people wanting to stay. When they increase pay, we see more people entering the military.”

The U.S. is directly involved in multiple conflicts around the world, such as battling the Islamic State group in Syria, fighting the terrorist network al-Shabab in Somalia and the American-led air campaign against Iran-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen. The pay and other benefits for those troops can vary wildly.

This year, an enlisted service member with a pay grade of E-1 will receive \$2,017.20 per month in basic pay, according to a Military.com breakdown. A new officer’s basic pay is \$3,826.20. Those with years or decades of service can make thousands of dollars more, up to \$18,491.70 per month for Gen. Charles Q. Brown, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and other service chiefs.

Those base pay numbers tell only part of the story. Service members can receive other payments, such as food and housing allowances, retirement benefits, subsidized or free health care through the Veterans Health Administration,



The U.S. military offers recruits tuition for higher education, housing, child care and a host of other benefits, but money has been found to be the best incentive. Warriors worldwide are getting bigger paychecks as the need for manpower rises.

college tuition benefits and subsidized child care.

So, too, do veterans of the Israel Defense Forces. Late last year, the Knesset passed legislation to cover the cost of higher education for combat veterans. Tens of thousands of IDF troops are seeing combat right now, with Israel’s military operations in the Gaza Strip against Hamas, in Lebanon against Hezbollah, and elsewhere in the region.

Pay for IDF service members differs significantly and is highest for those in combat zones. Other Israeli troops, particularly “lone soldiers” with no family in the country, receive other benefits such as food assistance, housing aid and, in some instances, holiday gift cards.

Israel’s top regional foe, Iran, has its own problems with military compensation. The Times of London reported this year that soldiers with Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, the country’s most elite military unit, make

an average of just \$300 per month — less than a computer programmer or a schoolteacher in Iran.

Some Hezbollah fighters reportedly say they make well over \$1,000 per month. Some Houthi rebels have claimed to make as much as \$300 per month, though verifying those numbers is difficult. Some Yemeni government officials say Houthi fighters make far less.

Hamas fighters also make a few hundred dollars per month on average, but the group has reportedly offered major financial incentives, including a free apartment for any Hamas member who captures an Israeli hostage.

New incentives in Russia, Ukraine

Russia, which has reportedly sustained nearly 700,000 casualties since it invaded Ukraine in February 2022, is desperately trying to attract more manpower while avoiding a politically perilous mandatory call-up.

Russian soldiers can earn as much as \$34,955 in basic annual salary, with the potential for as much as \$60,000 in additional payments and other benefits, according to recent Moscow Times figures. Being dispatched to combat zones almost always results in higher pay.

A recent Rand analysis found that the Russian government also offers after-school care for soldiers’ children, assistance to elderly relatives, a housing stipend, vocational training for next of kin, clothing and food allowances, and free season passes to sports complexes and gyms run by the Russian Defense Ministry.

Russia’s battlefield opponent, Ukraine, recently hiked its military pay. The minimum base payment is about \$800 per month, but that figure quickly rises to at least \$2,400 per month for those involved in direct hostilities against the Russian army, according to a recent breakdown by the media outlet The New Voice of Ukraine.

Kyiv’s recent mobilization reform also includes meal compensation, additional vacation time, mortgage assistance, exemption from interest on loans and rewards for destroying or capturing enemy equipment.

Kyiv also offers a certificate worth about \$3,600 toward the purchase of a car.

What if a soldier doesn’t drive? That benefit, along with countless others offered by militaries worldwide, won’t mean much to many service members.

“It’s hard to measure the value of those things. The [U.S.] military offers subsidized child care. If you have small children who need child care, that’s an incredible benefit. But there are a lot of people who don’t have kids,” said Ms. Asch, the Rand analyst. “Even the military retirement benefit, a lot of young people in their very early 20s, they don’t even know what a retirement benefit is.”

“The thing about money is that it’s meaningful to everyone,” she said.

Nation

HIGHER EDUCATION

Pro-Trump college students' dance at fraternity house goes viral

By VALERIE RICHARDSON
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Not all college students are turning to cookies and Legos to help them cope with Tuesday's election outcome. Some are celebrating.

The University of Missouri's Sigma Nu fraternity became a viral sensation for a video posted Wednesday showing more than 30 members dressed in suits and dancing outside the frat house in Columbia in front of a massive "Trump" banner.

"There was never any doubt. Kamala, you're fired!" says the performance leader, doing his best impression of President-elect Donald Trump, red tie and all.

At that point, the students rock to the Village People's 1978 disco hit "YMCA,"

Others cheer victory from campuses across the nation

an oft-played song at Trump rallies, emulating his air-punching dance moves.

Some fraternity alumni were thrilled, posting comments on X such as "I've never been more proud to be a Sigma Nu."

Another, probably not a Trump fan, posted, "Hey @SigmaNuHQ, I'm a Nu chapter alum, are you OK with the Sigma Nu name and one of our chapter houses being used to promote a political party? This is beneath the Legion of Honor."

Regardless, the video drew 251,000 likes on X and around 800,000 on TikTok as of Saturday.

Luke Ricchetti, president of the UM chapter, emphasized that the performance was intended to reflect the views

of the individual students, not the organization as a whole.

"The Rho Chapter of Sigma Nu Fraternity always has and always will respect the rights of our members, our brothers, to have and express their own beliefs and viewpoints, political or otherwise," he said in a statement.

At Auburn University in Alabama, hundreds of students gathered at Toomer's Corner shortly after Mr. Trump was declared the winner to sing "The Star-Spangled Banner."

They chanted "USA!" and waved American and Trump campaign flags. Overnight, the trees on Toomer's Corner were festooned with toilet paper, a tradition called rolling that occurs after

victories, in this case presidential.

Auburn facilities management was on standby and began cleaning up the toilet paper Wednesday morning, according to The Auburn Plainsman student newspaper.

"Auburn students and local citizens have rolled Toomer's Corner after presidential elections for Republican and Democratic presidents-elect going back to at least 1988," said Auburn spokeswoman Jennifer Adams. "Campus Safety & Security reported that the people present last night were peaceful, chanted 'USA' and sang the national anthem."

In Arizona, hundreds of students at Grand Canyon University poured onto the sidewalks on the night of

Mr. Trump's victory, chanting "USA," waving American flags and displaying Trump campaign banners, as shown on video.

"College students from Grand Canyon University celebrated Trump's victory in the streets late last night," said a post from the @TonyXTwo account. "AMERICA IS BACK BABY!!!!"

The pro-Trump festivities come with exit polls showing that the youngest voters, known as Generation Z or Gen Z, continued their rightward march.

Young men ages 18-29 supported Mr. Trump over Vice President Kamala Harris by 56% to 44%, a swing of 14% since the 2020.

Women ages 18-29 gave Ms. Harris 58% of the vote, down from the 65% who supported Mr. Biden in 2020, according to AP exit-polling data.



The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration is asking Tesla to "revisit its communications" to make sure messages are consistent with user instructions. Tesla's statements on its vehicles being able to drive themselves conflicts with its manuals, the agency says.

ACCOUNTABILITY

Tesla told to 'revisit its communications'

Statements imply electric vehicles can drive themselves

By TOM KRISHER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

DETROIT | The U.S. government's highway safety agency says Tesla is telling drivers in public statements that its vehicles can drive themselves, conflicting with owners manuals and briefings with the agency saying the electric vehicles need human supervision.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration is asking the company to "revisit its communications" to make sure messages are consistent with user instructions.

The request came in a May email to the company from Gregory Magno, a division chief with the agency's Office of Defects Investigation. It was attached to a letter seeking information on a probe into crashes involving Tesla's "Full Self-Driving" system in low-visibility conditions. The letter was posted Friday on the agency's website.

The agency began the investigation in October after getting reports of four crashes involving "Full Self-Driving" when Teslas encountered sun glare, fog and airborne dust. An Arizona pedestrian was killed in one of the crashes.

Critics, including Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg, have long accused Tesla of using deceptive names for its partially automated driving systems, including "Full Self-Driving" and "Autopilot," both of which have been viewed by owners as fully autonomous.

The letter and email raise further questions about whether Full Self-Driving will

be ready for use without human drivers on public roads, as Tesla CEO Elon Musk has predicted. Much of Tesla's stock valuation hinges on the company deploying a fleet of autonomous robotaxis.

Mr. Musk, who has promised autonomous vehicles before, said the company plans to have autonomous Models Y and 3 running without human drivers next year. Robotaxis without steering wheels would be available in 2026 starting in California and Texas, he said.

A message was sent Friday seeking comment from Tesla.

In the email, Mr. Magno writes that Tesla briefed the agency in April on an offer of a free trial of "Full Self-Driving" and emphasized that the owner's manual, user interface and a YouTube video tell humans that they have to remain vigilant and in full control of their vehicles.

But Mr. Magno cited seven posts or reposts by Tesla's account on X, the social media platform owned by Mr. Musk, that Mr. Magno said indicated that Full Self-Driving is capable of driving itself.

"Tesla's X account has reposted or endorsed postings that exhibit disengaged driver behavior," Mr. Magno wrote. "We believe that Tesla's postings conflict with its stated messaging that the driver is to maintain continued control over the dynamic driving task."

The postings may encourage drivers to see Full Self-Driving, which now has the word "supervised" next to it in Tesla materials, to view the system as a "chauffeur or robotaxi rather than a partial automation/

driver assist system that requires persistent attention and intermittent intervention by the driver," Mr. Magno wrote.

On April 11, for instance, Tesla reposted a story about a man who used Full Self-Driving to travel 13 miles from his home to an emergency room during a heart attack just after the free trial began on April 1. A version of Full Self-Driving helped the owner "get to the hospital when he needed immediate medical attention," the post said.

In addition, Tesla says on its website that use of Full Self-Driving and Autopilot without human supervision depends on "achieving reliability" and regulatory approval, Mr. Magno wrote.

But the statement is accompanied by a video of a man driving on local roads with his hands on his knees, with a statement that, "The person in the driver's seat is only there for legal reasons. He is not doing anything. The car is driving itself," the email said.

In the letter seeking information on driving in low-visibility conditions, Mr. Magno wrote that the investigation will focus on the system's ability to perform in low-visibility conditions caused by "relatively common traffic occurrences."

Drivers, he wrote, may not be told by the car that they should decide where Full Self-Driving can safely operate or fully understand the capabilities of the system.

"This investigation will consider the adequacy of feedback or information the system provides to drivers to enable them to make a decision in real time when the capability of the system has been exceeded," Mr. Magno wrote.

ECONOMY

Group expects jump in import volume before Trump tariffs

Dockworker strike on horizon

By TOM HOWELL JR.
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

A major industry group says ports will see a flood of imports through the end of the year as retailers brace for another port strike and try to get ahead of President-elect Donald Trump's looming tariffs.

The National Retail Federation said that while East and Gulf Coast dockworkers suspended a three-day strike ahead of the election, a longer impasse could follow when that deal expires in mid-January.

"And we're hearing that some merchants will also move up shipments to avoid the costly tariff increases expected after Donald Trump returns to the White House," Jonathan Gold, the NRF's vice president for supply chain and customs policy, said Friday. "Neither of these developments is good for retailers, their customers or the economy."

Mr. Trump has threatened to impose sweeping tariffs on imports from other countries, which he says will force companies to set up factories and manufacture goods in America.

He's floated up to 60% tariffs on Chinese goods and said he will impose a levy of at least 25% on Mexican goods unless President Claudia Sheinbaum reins in the flow of illegal migration across the U.S. southern border.

Mr. Trump also says the levies can pay for an array of U.S.

programs, though economists say consumers will ultimately bear the cost of tariffs in the form of higher prices.

The NRF estimates new tariffs could increase consumer prices by as much as \$78 billion per year.

"We are witnessing elections around the world where discontent is leading to inward-looking policies that threaten trade with the almost certain potential for increasing tariffs," said Ben Hackett, a shipping industry consultant and founder of Hackett Associates. "In the United States, this is particularly true with the election of Donald Trump, but it is not much different in Europe, with the [European Union] calling for tariffs to be applied to a growing number of products from China."

The NRF pointed to estimates from Global Port Tracker that show increases in port activity during the last three months of the year that will bring the total 2024 volume to 13.5% above 2013 levels.

The federation said those estimates reflect only the prospect of another dock worker strike and haven't been revised after the election. Mr. Trump won a landslide victory against Vice President Kamala Harris on Tuesday.

The Biden administration and others scrambled in October to head off the possibility of a long dockworker strike. Negotiations are slated to resume next week to avoid a longer impasse in January.



President-elect Donald Trump has threatened to impose sweeping tariffs on imports from other countries. He's floated up to 60% tariffs on Chinese goods and says he will levy at least 25% on Mexican goods.

ARKANSAS

Lawsuit challenges constitutional amendment revoking casino license

By ANDREW DEMILLO
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LITTLE ROCK, ARK. | Cherokee Nation Entertainment on Friday filed a lawsuit challenging a constitutional amendment Arkansas voters approved this week that revokes its license for a planned casino in the state.

The lawsuit filed in federal court claims the measure approved by voters on Tuesday violates its constitutional rights, and seeks to block its enforcement before it takes effect Nov. 13. The

constitutional amendment blocks a casino that was planned in Pope County.

Pope County was one of four sites where casinos were allowed to be built under a constitutional amendment that voters approved in 2018. Casinos have already been set up in the other three locations.

"Cherokee Nation Entertainment is firmly committed to protecting its constitutional rights, defending its lawfully issued casino license, and safeguarding the substantial investments it made in good faith based on the establishment

of the Pope County casino license under Amendment 100 in 2018," Bart Calhoun, an attorney for Cherokee Nation Entertainment, said in a statement.

The lawsuit is the latest in a costly fight between the Cherokee Nation and the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, which had spent at least \$30 million combined on the campaign over the ballot measure. The state Supreme Court last month rejected a lawsuit by the Cherokee Nation that sought to disqualify the measure from the ballot. The Choctaw Nation operates a casino near the Arkansas border.

"This legal action to attempt to bypass the voice of Arkansas voters is not unexpected," said Hans Stirtz, spokesman for Local Voters in Charge, the campaign backed by the Choctaw Nation in favor of the measure. "But we are fully confident in the process that brought Issue 2 to the ballot. Arkansas voters have spoken clearly on Issue 2 and we expect it to stand."

Attorney General Tim Griffin, a Republican, called the lawsuit "baseless" and said he is prepared to vigorously defend the state.

The proposed amendment removes

the Pope County casino's authorization from the state constitution. It also requires future casino licenses to be approved by voters in the county where it would be located. The constitution currently requires casino license applicants to submit letters of support from local officials.

Cherokee Nation Entertainment has said it plans to build a 50,000-square-foot casino northeast of Russellville, 60 miles northwest of Little Rock. Plans also call for a 200-room hotel, a conference center and an outdoor music venue.

CALIFORNIA

In a nutshell: Farmers enjoy pistachio boom, crop going to China

By Amy Taxin
ASSOCIATED PRESS



Pistachios are growing fast in California, where farmers have been devoting more land to a crop seen as hardier and more drought-tolerant. The pistachio crop generated nearly \$3 billion last year in the state. Much of the crop is heading to China, where it is a popular treat during Lunar New Year. Americans are also eating more of the nut.

LOST HILLS, CALIF. | In a sprawling plant in the heart of California's farmland, millions of shells rush down a metallic chute and onto a conveyor belt where they are inspected, roasted, packaged and shipped off to groceries around the world.

Pistachios are growing fast in California, where farmers have been devoting more land to a crop seen as hardier and more drought-tolerant in a state prone to dramatic swings in precipitation. The crop generated nearly \$3 billion last year in California and in the past decade the United States has surpassed Iran to become the world's top exporter of the nut.

"There has been an explosion over the last 10 or 15 years of plantings, and those trees are coming online," said Zachary Fraser, president and chief executive of American Pistachio Growers, which represents more than 800

farmers in the southwestern U.S. "You are starting to see the fruit of people's

vision from 40 years ago." California grows more than a third

of the country's vegetables and three quarters of its fruit and nuts, according to state agricultural statistics. Pistachios have surged over the past decade to become the state's sixth-biggest agricultural commodity in value ahead of longtime crops such as strawberries and tomatoes, the data shows.

Much of the crop is headed to China, where it is a popular treat during Lunar New Year. But industry experts said Americans also are eating more pistachios, which were rarely in grocery stores a generation ago and today are a snack food found almost everywhere. They are sold with shells or without and flavors include salt and pepper and honey roasted.

The Wonderful Co., a \$6 billion agricultural company known for brands such as Halo mandarins and FIJI Water, is the biggest name in pistachios. The company has grown pistachios since the 1980s, but it ramped up in 2015 after developing a rootstock that yields as much as 40% more nuts with the same soil and

water, said Rob Yraceburu, president of Wonderful Orchards.

Now, Wonderful grows between 15% and 20% of the U.S. pistachio crop, he said. Its pistachio orchards stretch across vast tracts of dust-filled farmland northwest of Los Angeles also lined with pomegranates and dairies. The trees are shaken each fall and the nuts hauled to a massive processing facility to be prepped for sale.

"There is an increasingly growing demand in pistachios," Mr. Yraceburu said. "The world wants more."

Pistachios are poised to weather California's dry spells better than its even bigger nut crop, almonds, which generated nearly \$4 billion in the state last year, industry experts said.

Pistachio orchards can be sustained with minimal water during drought, unlike almonds and other more sensitive crops. The trees also rely on wind instead of bees for pollination and can produce nuts for decades longer, Mr. Yraceburu said.

ARIZONA

Regulators fine natural gas utility over defective piping

PHOENIX | A natural gas utility with more than 2 million customers in Arizona, Nevada and parts of California is being fined \$2 million by regulators in Arizona over concerns about piping that is known to degrade in the heat.

The Arizona Corporation Commission announced Friday that it reached a consent agreement with Southwest Gas that includes the civil penalty and requires more inspections.

At issue is piping that can degrade in locations with hot ambient temperatures. Federal regulators issued an advisory in 2012 alerting operators that the piping — known as Driscopipe polyethylene (PE) M7000 and M8000 — could be susceptible to degradation.

It was reported that degradation and resulting leaks involved piping installed in the Southwest, particularly in the Mojave Desert region in Arizona, California and Nevada.

In Arizona, state investigators concluded that Southwest Gas failed to properly map where this type of piping had been installed.

Southwest Gas estimates there are more than 10,000 miles of the piping throughout Arizona. The utility says it has a plan to target high-risk areas for replacement or abandonment.

The agreement between state regulators and Southwest Gas stems from two separate incidents in 2021.

— Associated Press

ALABAMA

One dead after a shooting at Tuskegee University

TUSKEGEE | A shooting early Sunday during homecoming weekend at Tuskegee University in Alabama left one person dead and injured 16 others, a dozen by gunfire, authorities said. One arrest was announced hours later.

The Alabama Law Enforcement Agency said Jaquez Myrick, 25, of Montgomery, was taken into custody while leaving the scene of the campus shooting and had been found with a handgun with a machine gun conversion device. The agency said in a statement that Mr. Myrick faces a federal charge of possession of a machine gun. It did not accuse him of using the gun in the shooting. The agency did not

BRIEFLY THE NATION

say whether Mr. Myrick was a student at the historically Black university where the shooting erupted as the school's 100th Homecoming Week was winding down. Authorities said an 18-year-old man who died was not a university student but that some of the injured were students.

The FBI joined the investigation and said it was seeking tips from the public, as well as any video witnesses might have.

— Associated Press

CALIFORNIA

Firefighters advance on destructive blaze

LOS ANGELES | Southern California firefighters gained ground Saturday on a wildfire that has ravaged more than 100 structures as gusty winds subsided with favorable weather conditions expected through the weekend.

Evacuation orders were downgraded to warnings for residents in several areas of Ventura County, where the Mountain Fire held at around 32 square miles and was 21% contained, authorities said.

Firefighters were aided by lighter winds, mild temperatures and low humidity, which let fuels dry out and burn off quickly, according to the National Weather Service.

The fire broke out Wednesday morning and exploded in size amid the arrival of dry, warm and gusty northeast Santa Ana winds, forcing thousands of residents to flee and threatening 3,500 structures in suburban neighborhoods, ranches and agricultural areas around the community of Camarillo.

More than 100 structures were destroyed and another 25 damaged, fire officials said Saturday after inspection teams fanned out to evaluate the impact. Agriculture officials assessing the toll on farmland sown with avocado, citrus and berries estimated the damage at \$2.4 million, the Ventura County Star reported.

Smoky air hung over the area and was expected to linger for several

days. Forecasters said weather conditions would remain favorable Sunday and Monday with low temperatures and an onshore breeze.

— Associated Press

CALIFORNIA

Tony Todd, of 'Candyman' and other films, dies at 69

Actor Tony Todd, known for his haunting portrayal of a killer in the horror film "Candyman," has died. He was 69.

Mr. Todd died Wednesday at his home in the Los Angeles area.

His film resume included roles in award-winning movies such as the Oliver Stone-directed classic "Platoon," released in 1986.

In "Candyman," released in 1992 and followed by a remake in 2021, Mr. Todd played a menacing killer who had a hook on one arm.

The premise is built around an urban myth that Candyman roamed the Cabrini-Green housing projects in Chicago and could be summoned by saying his name five times in front of a mirror.

— Associated Press



When Was Your Last HVAC Tune-Up?

Schedule Soon & Save Up to \$2000!

- ✓ Free Estimates and Second Opinions for New Heating and Cooling Systems
- ✓ Many Payment Options to choose from
- ✓ Service Available Seven Days a Week
- ✓ Licensed and Professional Technicians



Call today! (844) 207-9708

\$49
Cooling or Heating System Tune Up

Price valid for one working unit. Excludes oil fired systems. Valid at participating ARS® Network locations. Not valid for third party, new construction, or commercial customers, with any other offers, discounts, or on prior sales. Call service center for details. Coupon required at time of service. Void if copied or transferred and where prohibited. Any other use may constitute fraud. Cash value \$.001. Offer expires 12/31/2024. License numbers available at americanresidential.com/licenses

SAVE UP TO **\$2000**
on a New Cooling and Heating System with our Buy Back Program!

Savings requires purchase and installation of select complete heating and cooling system. Removal and disposal by Company of existing heating and cooling system required. Valid at participating ARS® Network locations. Not valid for third party, new construction, or commercial customers, with any other offers, discounts, or on prior sales. Call service center for details. Coupon required at time of service. Void if copied or transferred and where prohibited. Any other use may constitute fraud. Cash value \$.001. Offer expires 12/31/2024. License numbers available at americanresidential.com/licenses



PAY NOTHING FOR 24 MONTHS!



BUY 2 GET 2 FREE!

BUY 4 WINDOWS GET 4 FREE! BUY 8 WINDOWS GET 8 FREE!

Schedule Your FREE In-Home Consultation

CALL TODAY (877) 760-2301



*Offer Valid on Potomac and ComfortSmart Models. 4 Window Minimum. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Excludes labor. Based on 10 Georgetown model. Double hung/slider windows with standard installation. Subject to Credit Approval. Offer Ends 12/31/24

World

SECURITY

Iranian operative accused in Trump assassination plot

By RYAN LOVELACE
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

The Department of Justice announced criminal charges Friday against an alleged Iranian operative accused of plotting to assassinate President-elect Donald Trump.

The criminal complaint filed in U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York said Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps was behind an effort to surveil and kill Mr. Trump.

"The Justice Department has charged an asset of the Iranian regime who was tasked by the regime to direct a network of criminal associates to further Iran's assassination plots against its targets, including President-elect Donald Trump," Attorney General Merrick Garland said in a statement. "We have also charged

Justice Department arrests 2 others in connection to scheme

and arrested two individuals who we allege were recruited as part of that network to silence and kill, on U.S. soil, an American journalist who has been a prominent critic of the regime."

The Justice Department said Tehran-based IRGC asset Farhad Shakeri used a network of criminal associates he met in U.S. prisons to supply the Iranian government with operatives needed to conduct surveillance and carry out assassinations. Shakeri was deported from the U.S. more than 15 years ago after serving 14 years for a robbery conviction.

Shakeri said the Iranian government tasked him in September with prioritizing the killing of Mr. Trump, identified

as Victim-4 in the criminal complaint.

Shakeri said the IRGC indicated it had already spent a "lot of money" trying to kill Mr. Trump and was willing to spend far more to assassinate the president-elect.

"According to Shakeri, during his meeting with IRGC Official-1 on or about October 7, 2024, IRGC Official-1 directed Shakeri to provide a plan within seven days to kill Victim-4," the complaint said. "If Shakeri was unable to put forth a plan within that time frame, IRGC Official-1 continued, the IRGC would pause its plan to kill Victim-4 until after the U.S. presidential [election], because IRGC Official-1 assessed that Victim-4 would lose the election

and, afterward, it would be easier to assassinate Victim-4."

Shakeri told the FBI he did not intend to propose a plan to kill Mr. Trump in the time frame set by the IRGC.

Other efforts to assassinate Mr. Trump during the 2024 campaign failed, and Iran's assessment of the election's outcome was wrong.

The Justice Department said Shakeri remains at large and is believed to be in Iran.

The department also said it arrested Carlisle Rivera and Jonathan Loadholt, who are accused of being recruits for Shakeri's targeting of a journalist. All three have been charged with murder for hire, conspiracy to commit murder for

hire and money laundering conspiracy.

The FBI obtained information from Shakeri via a series of telephone interviews with FBI agents, including one on Thursday. According to the complaint, Shakeri said his reason for participating in the interviews was to obtain a reduced sentence for an unnamed individual being held in a U.S. prison.

FBI Director Christopher A. Wray praised the bureau for thwarting Iran's attempt to kill Mr. Trump.

"The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps — a designated foreign terrorist organization — has been conspiring with criminals and hitmen to target and gun down Americans on U.S. soil, and that simply won't be tolerated," Mr. Wray said in a statement. "Thanks to the hard work of the FBI, their deadly schemes were disrupted."



Rescue workers and people search for victims under the rubble of a destroyed house hit in an Israeli airstrike in Aalmat, Lebanon, on Sunday. The attack killed at least 23 people including seven children.

UKRAINE

Moscow, suburbs hit by drone strike; Putin signs pact with North Korea

Kremlin optimistic about Trump

By SUSIE BLANN AND JOANNA KOZLOWSKA
ASSOCIATED PRESS

KYIV, UKRAINE | A massive drone strike rattled Moscow and its suburbs overnight into Sunday, injuring several people and temporarily halting traffic at some of Russia's busiest airports, officials reported. Meanwhile, a huge nighttime wave of Russian drones targeted Ukraine.

This came after Russian President Vladimir Putin signed into law a pact with North Korea Saturday night, obliging the two countries to provide immediate military aid using "all means" if either is attacked. The agreement marks the strongest link between Moscow and Pyongyang since the end of the Cold War.

Earlier this week, Ukraine reported that its troops engaged for the first time with North Korean units. U.S. officials earlier confirmed the deployment of at least 3,000 North Korean troops to Russia, while Kyiv has repeatedly said the number is far higher. This has fueled concerns of a marked escalation in Moscow's war on Ukraine, and tensions spilling over into the Asia-Pacific.

Both Moscow and Kyiv have kept a tight lid on casualty figures since the start of the full-scale war despite regular reports of Russian forces taking huge losses following "human wave" attacks that aim to exhaust Ukrainian defenses.

However, the chief of the U.K. defense staff, Tony Radakin, told the BBC that Russian forces had suffered their worst month of casualties in October since the full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. He said Moscow's troops suffered an average of 1,500 dead and wounded per day, bringing their total losses in the war to 700,000.

According to Mr. Radakin, ordinary Russians were paying "an extraordinary price" for the war, even as a grueling, monthlong Russian offensive in Ukraine's industrial east continues to eke out gains. He did not say how U.K. officials had calculated the Russian casualty figures.

"There is no doubt that Russia is

making tactical, territorial gains and that is putting pressure on Ukraine," he said. But he added that they were "tiny increments of land," and Moscow's mounting defense and security spending was putting an increasing strain on the country.

Mr. Radakin insisted that Ukraine's Western partners should stand by it for "as long as it takes" to beat back Russian aggression, even as allies of President-elect Donald Trump have signaled that Kyiv may have to cede territory to seek peace.

On Sunday, the Kremlin's official spokesman voiced cautious optimism about Mr. Trump's upcoming presidency, saying: "At least he talks about peace. ... He does not talk about confrontation."

"The signals are positive. Trump, during his election campaign, said that he perceives everything through deals, that he can make deals that will lead everyone toward peace," Dmitry Peskov told reporters at a briefing.

"He does not talk about a desire to inflict a strategic defeat on Russia, and this favorably distinguishes him from the current [U.S.] administration," Mr. Peskov said.

But Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Sunday insisted that "strong decisions" from Kyiv's Western partners are needed to stop the "terror" of Russian drone and missile strikes, and secure "reliable peace" for Ukraine.

"The killing of children, the loss of family members cannot simply be forgotten," Mr. Zelenskyy posted on the Telegram messaging app.

"Without strong decisions, there is no security from terror, and this is equally clear in every country. There is no reliable peace without justice," he said.

Fierce fighting has continued near the eastern Ukrainian cities of Toretsk and Kurakhove, Ukraine's General Staff reported Sunday. Between 700 and 1,000 residents remain in Kurakhove, a frontline city surrounded on three sides and battered into ruin. Most of them live underground with no running water, heating or electricity.

MIDDLE EAST

Israeli strikes kill dozens in Lebanon, Gaza; Trump speaking to Netanyahu

By WAFSA SHURAF, SAMY MAGDY
AND KAREEM CHEHAYEB
ASSOCIATED PRESS

DEIR AL-BALAH, GAZA STRIP | Israeli strikes killed dozens of people including children on Sunday in Lebanon and isolated northern Gaza, as the world watched for signs of how the U.S. election might affect the war against Iranian-backed militant groups Hamas and Hezbollah.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he has spoken three times with President-elect Donald Trump since Tuesday's election and they "see eye-to-eye regarding the Iranian threat and all of its components." Israeli President Isaac Herzog is scheduled to meet with President Biden on Tuesday.

The Israeli airstrike in Lebanon killed at least 23 people including seven children in Aalmat village north of Beirut, far from the areas in the east and south where Hezbollah militants have a major presence. Lebanon's Health Ministry said another six people were wounded. There was no Israeli

evacuation warning. There was no immediate Israeli comment.

Hezbollah began firing rockets, drones and missiles into Israel after war broke out in Gaza, in solidarity with the Palestinians and Hamas. Israel retaliated, and a series of escalations have led to all-out war.

In northern Gaza, an Israeli strike on a home sheltering displaced people in the urban refugee camp of Jabaliya killed at least 17 people including nine women, according to Dr. Fadel Naim, director of Al-Ahly Hospital in Gaza City.

Israel's military said it targeted a site where militants were operating, without providing evidence. It said the details of the strike are under review.

A separate strike hit a house in Gaza City, killing Wael al-Khour, a minister in the Hamas-run government, as well as his wife and three children, according to the Civil Defense, first responders who operate under the government.

Israel has struck deeper inside Lebanon since September, when it killed Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah as well as most of his top commanders.

Hezbollah has expanded its rocket fire from northern to central Israel. The fighting has killed more than 3,000 people in Lebanon, according to the Health Ministry, and more than 70 people in Israel.

After Israel's strike in Aalmat, some 25 miles north of Beirut, legislator Raed Berro denied that any Hezbollah personnel or assets were in the building that was hit, adding: "The important people are on the front line resisting ... It is impossible for them to be among people in civilian life."

In Syria, an Israeli airstrike hit a residential building in the Damascus suburb of Sayyida Zeinab and the Defense Ministry said seven civilians were killed, state news agency SANA reported. Britain-based opposition war monitor The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights suggested Hezbollah was targeted. Israel did not immediately comment.

The mid-month deadline is approaching for an ultimatum the Biden administration gave Israel to allow more aid into Gaza or risk possible restrictions on U.S. military funding.

BRITAIN

King Charles III, Princess Kate attend remembrance event

LONDON | King Charles III led the nation Sunday in a two-minute silence in remembrance of fallen service personnel in central London as the Princess of Wales looked on, a further sign that the royal family is slowly returning to normal at the end of a year in which two of the most popular royals were sidelined by cancer.

Remembrance Sunday is a totemic event in Britain, with the monarch leading senior royals, political leaders, including Prime Minister Keir Starmer and his eight living predecessors, and envoys from the Commonwealth countries in laying wreaths at the Cenotaph, the Portland stone memorial that serves as the focal point for honoring the nation's war dead.

The service is held on the second Sunday of November to mark the

signing of the armistice to end World War I "on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month" in 1918.

— Associated Press

FRANCE

Paris to deploy 4,000 officers for soccer match

PARIS | Paris police said Sunday that 4,000 officers and 1,600 stadium staff will be deployed for a France-Israel soccer match to ensure security in and around the stadium and on public transportation a week after violence against Israeli fans in Amsterdam.

France and Israel are playing in a UEFA Nations League match on Thursday that French President Emmanuel Macron will attend, the Elysee presidential palace said.

"There's a context, tensions that make that match a high-risk event for

BRIEFLY THE WORLD

us," Paris police Chief Laurent Nunez said on French news broadcaster BFM TV, adding authorities "won't tolerate" any violence.

Chief Nunez said that 2,500 police officers would be deployed around the Stade de France stadium, north of the French capital, in addition to 1,500 others in Paris and on public transportation.

— Associated Press

YEMEN

Soldier opens fire, kills two Saudi troops

DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES | A soldier for Yemen's exiled government

opened fire on Saudi troops as they exercised in eastern Yemen, killing two of them and wounding another in a rare insider attack during the kingdom's nearly decadelong war there, officials said Saturday.

The assault in eastern Hadramawt province comes as a yearslong ceasefire between Saudi Arabia and Yemen's Houthi rebels largely has held despite the militants' ongoing attacks against shipping in the Red Sea corridor.

While the Houthis did not claim the attack, at least one Houthi official praised it as being "the beginning and an indication of a harsh future awaiting the invaders."

Meanwhile, U.S. warplanes carried out new strikes targeting Houthi positions that lasted into early Sunday, the American military said. The strikes come after the militants likely shot down yet-another American reconnaissance drone over the country.

The attack on the Saudi troops took

place Friday night in Seiyun, a city some 310 miles east of Sanaa.

— Associated Press

MAURITIUS

Ruling party seeks new term in election

JOHANNESBURG | People in Mauritius voted Sunday for a new Parliament with the ruling party seeking to secure a second five-year term for Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth in one of Africa's most stable democracies.

Mr. Jugnauth's government has faced criticism recently after it banned social media websites following a wiretapping scandal in which recorded conversations involving politicians, businesspeople, activists and journalists leaked and were published online.

The ban was lifted after a few days but has raised concern among the opposition and civil society.

— Associated Press

Region

MARYLAND

McClain-Delaney claims victory over Parrott in House seat race

Congressional campaign focused on reproductive rights

By MALLORY WILSON
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Democratic House candidate April McClain-Delaney won the open seat in Maryland's 6th District.

She defeated Republican opponent Neil Parrott. The seat was open because Rep. David Trone, a Democrat, decided to run for Senate, but he lost in the primary to Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks. Ms. Alsobrooks won the Senate contest, defeating Republican Larry Hogan.

"I am deeply honored and humbled by the trust the people of Maryland's 6th District have placed in me by electing me to be their next member of Congress," Ms. McClain-Delaney said in a statement posted on X on Friday declaring victory.

"Since the beginning of this campaign, our message has been clear: it's time for common sense, common ground leadership that puts people over politics, defends our freedoms and values, and builds a future centered on unity," she said. The district covers the state's

conservative western region and a piece of wealthy, suburban left-leaning Montgomery County.

Ms. McClain-Delaney is familiar with the seat, as her husband, former Rep. John Delaney, held the seat from 2013-2019. He flipped the seat Democrat from former Rep. Roscoe Bartlett, a Republican. Mr. Delaney gave up his seat to focus on his unsuccessful run for Democratic presidential candidate in 2020. He was succeeded by Mr. Trone.

A mother of four daughters, Ms. McClain-Delaney focused her campaign on reproductive



April McClain-Delaney, a Democrat, defeated Republican rival Neil Parrott in a race for Maryland's 6th District.

rights. She previously worked in the Department of Commerce during the Biden administration.

She outspent Mr. Parrott, using personal funds to bankroll the campaign. She received endorsements from some top Democrats, including former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Rep. Jamie Raskin of Maryland and Maryland Gov. Wes Moore.

Mr. Parrott has run for the seat three times now unsuccessfully. He ran his campaign on inflation, the economy and illegal immigration. House Majority Leader Steve Scalise, Louisiana Republican, came out in support of Mr. Parrott, calling him "an engineer who knows how to break the gridlock in Washington."

Mr. Parrott has not conceded,

telling The Associated Press in a text that he is "extremely grateful for the huge amount of work that was put into this campaign by volunteers in all five counties."

"As a result of this effort and sacrifice, the Parrott campaign will wait until all the votes are counted before declaring victory or defeat," he said.

As of Sunday, the race was still at 92% reported, with Ms. McClain-Delaney leading 52.1% to 47.9%.

Democrats only need a gain of four seats to win the lower chamber.

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

NORTH CAROLINA

Man charged in highway shooting to remain in jail

No bond for now; one person was wounded in attack

By MAKIYA SEMINER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

RALEIGH, N.C. | A 23-year-old man suspected of shooting at least eight vehicles on a busy North Carolina highway and several homes in recent days, wounding one person, will remain in custody without bond for now, a judge ruled Friday.

Andrew Thomas Graney was arrested Thursday at a home in Raleigh, the state capital. Two dozen law enforcement officers with guns drawn approached the home and later led two people out in handcuffs, WRAL-TV reported. The other person was released

without charge, police said.

Mr. Graney, 23, is charged with one count of assault with a dangerous weapon with the intent to kill or inflict serious injury and 11 counts of firing a weapon into an occupied vehicle or dwelling, police said in a statement. Authorities have not disclosed a possible motive.

Mr. Graney, a senior at North Carolina State University, made his first court appearance on Friday via videoconference for a hearing to set bond and his next court date. He chose to have a court-appointed attorney, Ricky Elmore.

Wake County Chief Public

Defender Deonte Thomas said in an email after the hearing that Mr. Elmore has met with Mr. Graney, but that the office had no further comment.

Bullet casings found at most of the shooting scenes preliminarily matched the same firearm; Mr. Graney's vehicle matched descriptions of a vehicle at some of the locations; and cellphone tower data placed his phone at each of the sites, Wake County Assistant District Attorney Stacy Newton said.

"This was an absolutely senseless and random series of acts of violence," Ms. Newton said.

District Judge Debra Sasser

ultimately decided to withhold bond, citing the fact that the shootings took place over four days. A future judge may allow bond, but Mr. Graney would need to prove he is not a danger to the public.

"This is one of those cases that put fear in the heart of the entire community," Judge Sasser said. "I had colleagues tell me, texting me, 'Don't go on I-40 today.' And I'm sure many other people in the community received that as well."

Relatives of Mr. Graney did not immediately respond to voice-mails or emails seeking comment.

Mr. Graney's mother, Treka Graney, told WRAL she had not seen her son for several months and he was not raised with guns in the home. "This is not my son," she said.

"It totally took me off guard," she said. "It is totally out of character. ... He's a sweet boy. Everybody loves him. He always stands up straight, he's very polite. He always follows the rules."

The shootings, which apparently began Monday, began to get attention after several people reported gunfire on a stretch of Interstate 40 in Raleigh and the suburb of Cary around the Wednesday morning rush, police said. Reports of similar shootings then emerged.

Authorities said eight vehicles were struck, including two on Monday, four on Wednesday and two on Thursday. Four area homes were shot on Wednesday, police said. All were connected, Raleigh's police chief said.

DISTRICT

Man sentenced to eight years in prison for role on Jan. 6

Smashed glass panels on door

By MICHAEL KUNZELMAN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

A man who stormed the U.S. Capitol and smashed glass panels on a door — moments before a police officer fatally shot another rioter climbing through the opening — was sentenced to eight years in prison.

Zachary Alam was one of the first rioters sentenced since this week's electoral victory by President-elect Donald Trump, who has repeatedly vowed to pardon and free supporters who attacked the Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021.

Before learning his sentence, Alam said he and all other Jan. 6 rioters should get what he called a "pardon of patriotism." He told U.S. District Judge Dabney Friedrich that he doesn't want a "second-class pardon."

"I want a full pardon with all the benefits that come with it," Alam added.

The judge didn't respond to Alam's remarks about a pardon. She described him as one of the most violent and aggressive rioters as she described his "full-throttled attack" on democratic institutions.

"Those are not the actions of a patriot. To say otherwise is delusional," Judge Friedrich said.

Congressional members and staffers were hiding in the House chamber during the Jan. 6, 2021, siege when Alam used a helmet to breach the barricaded Speaker's Lobby door panels. Ashli Babbitt, a 35-year-old Air Force veteran from San Diego, was shot and killed by an officer as she tried to climb through the shattered glass.

A jury convicted Alam last year of 10 counts, including a felony charge that he obstructed the congressional certification of

President Biden's 2020 electoral victory.

Alam conceded that he broke the law on Jan. 6.

"But I believe in my heart that I was doing the right thing," he added. "Sometimes you have to break the rules to do what's right."

Prosecutors recommended a prison sentence of 11 years and four months for Alam, who graduated from the University of Virginia before dropping out of the Alabama College of Osteopathic Medicine.

"Footage of Alam exhorting the mob to attack members of Congress before they escaped and then punching out the windows of the barricade protecting them was streamed to viewers around the world and made him immediately infamous," prosecutors wrote in a court filing.

Defense attorney Steven Metcalf described Alam as a troubled loner who "just wanted to fit in somewhere because he has been rejected by everyone else in his life." Mr. Metcalf, who sought a prison term of four years and nine months for Alam, said the government's sentencing recommendation was excessive.

"In defending this case, Alam has become a notorious public figure and at the center of controversy in certain circles," Mr. Metcalf wrote. "His controversy is not based on his actions that day, but rather, because he was a main witness to the government taking the life of [Babbitt]."

Alam attended then-President Donald Trump's "Stop the Steal" rally near the White House before joining the mob that attacked the Capitol. He helped other rioters scale barriers outside the Capitol before entering the building through a broken window.



Air quality advisories were issued for parts of New York and New Jersey because of smoke from wildfires. A forest ranger died after a tree fell on him while he was fighting a brush fire.

NEW JERSEY

New York forest ranger dies fighting fires in New Jersey

Authorities issue air quality warnings

ASSOCIATED PRESS

POMPTON LAKES, N.J. | A New York forest ranger died battling one of a number of wildfires in New Jersey and New York amid dry conditions that have prompted air quality warnings in both states, authorities said Sunday.

The Eastern Dutchess County Fire and Rescue said the New York state forestry service reported that the forest ranger, whose name was not released, died when a tree fell on him Saturday afternoon as he battled a major brush fire along the New York-New Jersey border, officials said.

"Rip brother your shift is over job well done," the post read.

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's Forest Fire Service reported the sprawling blaze had spread to more than 3

square miles near the border in Passaic County's West Milford and Orange County, New York.

Dubbed the Jennings Creek wildfire, it was threatening two homes and eight buildings in the Long Pond Ironworks Historic District.

Health advisories were issued for parts of New York and northeastern New Jersey due to unhealthy air quality because of smoke from the fires. People were urged to limit strenuous outdoor physical activity if possible; those especially sensitive included the very young and very old and people with ailments such as asthma and heart disease.

New Jersey officials, meanwhile, reported 75% containment of a 175-acre fire in the Pompton Lakes area of Passaic County that was threatening 55 homes, although no evacuations had been ordered.

Progress was also reported on fires in the Bethany Run area on the border of Burlington and Camden counties in Evesham and Voorhees townships; a blaze along the Palisades Interstate Parkway in Englewood Cliffs in Bergen County; and the Pheasant Run wildfire in the Glassboro wildlife protection area of Gloucester County.

Prosecutors in Ocean County on late Saturday afternoon announced arson and firearms charges in connection with a 350-acre Jackson Township fire that started Wednesday. They said it was sparked by magnesium shards from a shotgun round on the berm of a shooting range. Officials said firing that kind of "incendiary or tracer ammunition" was barred in the state.

The majority of the blaze has been contained, officials reported Friday.

BRIEFLY THE REGION

VIRGINIA

LYNCHBURG

Five wounded in shooting at restaurant

Five people were wounded in a shooting at a restaurant, police said.

Officers responded to a call of shots fired late Friday at Bee-Bee's Spot in Lynchburg. They found three adults at the scene with gunshot wounds, who were treated and taken to the hospital.

Shortly afterward, two more adults arrived at the hospital with gunshot wounds stemming from the same incident.

— Associated Press

CHARLOTTESVILLE

Rallygoer with torch pleads to lesser charge

Another man charged with carrying a flaming torch with the intent to intimidate during a 2017 rally at the University of Virginia campus in Charlottesville has agreed to a plea deal.

Dallas Jerome Nicholas Medina, 32, of Ravenna, Ohio, was originally indicted on a felony intimidation charge, but pleaded guilty on Oct. 31 in Albemarle County Circuit Court to a reduced charge of misdemeanor disorderly conduct and will not serve any jail time, The Daily Progress reported.

Medina's case is among more than a dozen stemming from an event on Aug. 11, 2017.

That's when a group of white nationalists carrying torches marched through the campus of the University of Virginia, some chanting, "Jews will not replace us." He was the fourth participant to enter a plea deal.

In addition to the four misdemeanor pleas, six people have been convicted of felonies and one case ended with a mistrial after jurors failed to reach a verdict.

— Associated Press

PENNSYLVANIA

PHILADELPHIA

Transit union puts potential strike on hold

The union that represents thousands of Philadelphia mass transit system workers has agreed to delay a strike that could have started Friday, saying progress was being made in ongoing contract talks.

Transport Workers Union Local 234 members had voted last week to authorize a strike once their one-year contract with the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority expired at 12:01 a.m. Friday.

But the two sides agreed late Thursday to continue talks on Friday afternoon.

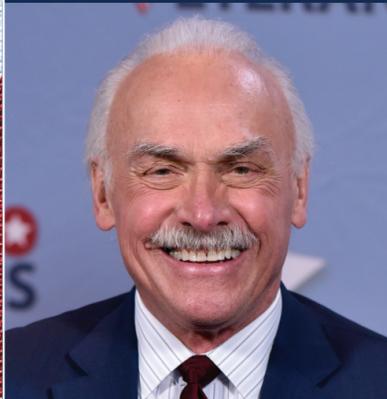
The transportation authority, which has repeatedly said its financial health is uncertain, said it remains hopeful that a fair deal can be reached.

The agency has declined to comment in detail on the talks.

— Associated Press

SALUTE TO VETERANS

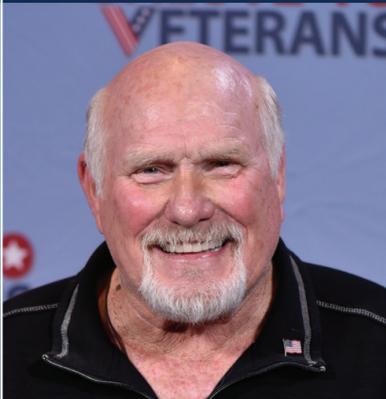
★ Rocky Bleier ★



U.S. Army Veteran,
4-time Champion,
Pittsburgh



★ Terry Bradshaw ★



TV Host & Hall of Famer,
4-time Champion,
Pittsburgh

★ Greg Gadson ★



U.S. Army Veteran,
Honorary Captain,
2-time Champion with New York



★ Alejandro Villanueva ★



U.S. Army Veteran,
2-time Pro Bowler,
Baltimore



★ Joe Cardona ★



U.S. Navy Veteran,
2-time Champion,
New England



Salute to Veterans is a national television series that honors and pays tribute to our nation's veterans, active duty service members, military families and patriotic supporters. The inspirational and educational program offers insightful discussion, resources and solutions for the ongoing issues our veterans face daily. The series shares the stories of distinguished veterans who have served their country, overcame personal challenges in their lives and made a difference in their communities, while inspiring others to do the same.

SALUTE TO VETERANS

salutetoveterans.org

The Salute to Veterans Series is made possible by the generous support of our partners.

Presented by



We did it

Trump will be our 47th president

By Everett Piper

On Tuesday, we did it. We elected Donald Trump. A friend sent me a note on social media last Wednesday morning: "Well, he did it!" That was all it said: He did it. Indeed, he did. On Tuesday night, after months of shaking his fist in the face of big government, Big Pharma and the Beltway oligarchs who were threatening his life, liberty and property, Donald Trump became the president-elect.

After having the Department of Justice turned against him, after having the FBI criminally lie about him, after being falsely accused of everything from Russian collusion to fomenting an insurrection, after having to spend untold time and money in a kangaroo court defending himself against hatchet men funded by liberal megadonor George Soros, after two partisan impeachments, after one witch hunt after another, after being subjected to bogus charge on top of bogus charge, after suffering politically motivated attempts to destroy his businesses, wealth, family and legacy, after not one assassination attempt but two, after literally being shot in the ear and rushed off the stage with blood streaming down his face, he did it.

We have watched for months as Mr. Trump continued to fight, and last Tuesday, he triumphed over the tyranny of the establishment and won not only the Electoral College but the popular vote to become the 47th president of the United States.

Yes, Mr. Trump did it, but there's more to the story.

Not only did he do it, but so did we. We, the "basket of deplorables."

We, the "irredeemable rubes."

We, the farmers who "lack gray matter."

We, the ranchers accused of destroying the planet with our horses and cows.

We, the "toxic males" who still act like men.

We, the "weak and unintelligent" women who still like biological males.

We, the backwoods Christians who "cling to guns or religion."

We, the ones they've called racists, sexists, fascists, bigots, xenophobes, homophobes, Islamophobes,

transphobes, Nazis, crazy, stupid, intolerant and hateful. This past week, we stood up en masse and said we've had enough.

We're tired of their arrogance.

We're tired of their insults.

We're tired of their condescension.

We're tired of them.

On Election Day, over 70 million of us waited in line

Stay away from our kids and stay off our land.

We, the people, grabbed a megaphone bigger and louder than CBS, NBC, ABC and CNN combined and shouted that we would no longer be insulted, degraded, demeaned and ignored.

On Tuesday, we looked the self-satisfied smart ones who obviously think they are our intellectual and moral superiors in the eye and said, no more. We've had it. You and your pedantic politics have gone too far. We are done with you. We will no longer let you control our lives and ruin our country.

You are not going to tell us when we can go to church or where we can send our kids to school.

You aren't the ones to decide what we wear on our faces or what to inject into our bodies.

We don't want to hear any more of your nonsense about the systemic evils of America, and we, sure as the sunrise, aren't going to let you continue to lecture us about your butchered pronouns.

This is our country and our home. These are our children. It's our town, our village, our border and our neighborhood, and you can stop trespassing on our land and our rights.

Yes, we did it. We fired a cannonball across the bow of their Orwellian ship of state, and it was a shot heard around the world.

On Wednesday, the morning after the election, CNN political commentator Scott Jennings said, "President-elect Donald Trump's victory over Vice President Kamala Harris was a signal that working-class Americans are fed up with the current administration."

That is perhaps the understatement of the century.

Yes, we are fed up.

We are fed up with the smugness. We are fed up with the moralizing. We are fed up with the disrespect of our values, our faith and our freedom. And we are fed up with being called garbage.

And last Tuesday, we elected Donald Trump.

Everett Piper (dreverettpiper.com, @dreverettpiper), a columnist for The Washington Times, is a former university president and radio host. He is the author of "Not a Daycare: The Devastating Consequences of Abandoning Truth" (Regnery). He can be reached at epiper@dreverettpiper.com.



ILLUSTRATION BY GREG GROESCH

for hours just to tell the mainstream media, the grand and glorious leaders of the great reset, together with all their "useful idiots" in Congress and our courts, in no uncertain terms, to leave us the heck alone.

Stay out of our churches.

Stay out of our homes.

Stay out of our locker rooms, our showers, our classrooms and our sports.

The storm is behind us

Harris victory would have spawned a one-party central government

By Robert Knight

Last Tuesday felt a lot like 2020, when counting stopped in the wee hours and Democratic nominee Joe Biden pulled miraculously ahead.

By midnight this time, only North Carolina had been called for Republican Donald Trump, and the other six battleground states were too early to call. What? The rest of the country's vote had pretty much been counted.

Despite the dread, there was a palpable feeling that things would be different, that this election would be, as Mr. Trump exhorted, "too big to rig." And it was.

While scrolling X, I came across a brigade of marching squirrels decked out in MAGA hats in homage to Peanut. He is the adopted squirrel in New York state who was seized and euthanized by state wildlife officials for no good reason.

The send-up was hilarious. But like The Babylon Bee's matchless satire, it made a serious point about government overreach and Mr. Trump's appeal.

Many Americans are appalled by the Obama-Biden-Harris authoritarian agenda, such as pushing to ban gasoline-powered vehicles and forcing

» see KNIGHT | B3



Trump to face myriad foreign policy challenges

Russia, China, Iran and North Korea threaten the world order

By Joseph R. DeTrani

Russia, China, Iran and North Korea pose an immediate threat to the world order. Each is a dictatorship fomenting unrest in East Asia, Europe, the Middle East and Africa. Each tried to influence our presidential elections. Each of them failed.

How ironic, however, that the official Chinese Communist Party news wire service, Xinhua, ran a series of essays highlighting what it described as eight problems with the U.S. election cycle, according to The Washington Times' Threat Status.

There is no democracy in China. There are no elections permitting the people to elect their representatives and their leader, Xi Jinping. Nonetheless, China criticizes our democratic system where the people make these leadership decisions.

The same can be said for Russia with its bogus elections, Iran with its ruling theocracy and North Korea with the ruling Kim dynasty.

The New York Times published a piece last Wednesday on 10 takeaways from the election asserting that "the relative stability on domestic and international affairs during the past four years is about to be gone, replaced by a volatile president who often operates without regard to national precedent."

I must be missing something — relative stability in international affairs?

Russia's war in Ukraine continues into its third year, reportedly with over 1 million casualties on both sides. China continues trying to intimidate Taiwan with naval and air military exercises mimicking a blockade.

Chinese naval exercises are an effort to restrict freedom of navigation in international waters in the South China Sea, most recently directed at the Philippines and that nation's sovereignty over Second Thomas Shoal, according to a finding from the U.N. arbitral tribunal.

Iranian leader Ali Khamenei's stated goal is to eradicate Israel. Iran's support of Hamas in the Gaza Strip, Hezbollah in

Lebanon and the Houthis in Yemen is part of Iran's strategy to confront and eventually eliminate Israel.

The Oct. 7, 2023, Hamas attack on Israel, in which more than 1,200 men, women and children were killed and 254 hostages were taken, has inflamed the region, with Israel confronting Iran

North Korea is now aligned with Russia, with a mutual defense treaty that commits each to defend the other if attacked.

North Korea is providing Russia with significant quantities of artillery shells and ballistic missiles. North Korea reportedly sent 10,000 special forces troops to Russia recently to aid Russia in its war of aggression in Ukraine.

Indeed, North Korea's nuclear and ballistic missile programs continue to grow exponentially, with North Korea's launch of an Intercontinental ballistic missile — the Hwasong-19 — capable of reaching anywhere in the United States.

North Korea's Constitution has been amended to make South Korea and the U.S. the nation's principal enemies, with North Korea eschewing reunification with South Korea while destroying all roads and rail lines that connect the two.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, now aligned with Russia, may be emboldened to incite conflict on the peninsula. From 1950 to 1953, Korean War resulted in significant U.S., South Korea, Chinese and North Korean casualties. The 1953 armistice stopped the fighting, yet hostilities continue.

The possibility of another war on the Korean Peninsula is greater now than any time since 1953. This time, however, a North Korea aligned with Russia, committed to come to the defense of North Korea if attacked, reportedly has tactical and strategic nuclear weapons, and Mr. Kim has threatened to use them.

In short, the administration of President-elect Donald Trump will inherit a multitude of foreign policy challenges that will require his immediate attention. And based on his first term as president, it's likely Mr. Trump will personally interact with Vladimir Putin, Xi Jinping and Kim Jong-Un in an effort to resolve some or all of these issues.

Joseph R. DeTrani is the former director of East Asia operations at the CIA, former special envoy for talks with North Korea (2003-2006) and former director of the National Counterproliferation Center. The views expressed here are the author's and not those of any government agency or department.



ILLUSTRATION BY HUNTER

and attempting to destroy Hamas while also taking on Hezbollah and the Houthis. Efforts to reach a cease-fire in Gaza have failed amid concern that hostilities could escalate and engulf the region in war.

COMMENT & ANALYSIS

Hands off the Electoral College

Democrats schemed to select president by popular vote

With Donald Trump's crushing victory this past Tuesday, schemes to get rid of the Electoral College are off the table — for the next several years, at least.

It could have been otherwise. On the eve of the election, Jen Psaki, former spokeswoman for President Biden, fell for the last-minute suppression polling meant to give the impression that Kamala Harris was going to win in a landslide. A famous Iowa pollster claimed Mr. Trump would lose the GOP stronghold by 3 percentage points. In the only result that mattered, he won by 13 points.

While Ms. Psaki thought victory was at hand, she telegraphed what Democrats were planning to do had they been given four more years. She proposed an end to what she called the "broken system" we use to select the commander in chief, inviting fellow MSNBC host Lawrence O'Donnell to lay out the strategy on her program.

"There is a massive voter suppression operation created by the Founding Fathers," Mr. O'Donnell said. "Think about how many more Californians would vote if they thought their vote mattered. How many more millions of votes would Kamala Harris get in the state if those voters thought their vote actually mattered?"

The framers of our constitutional republic set up a system to take the views of residents of all 50 states into consideration when choosing leaders. This has the intended side effect of preventing coastal elites from making those decisions for everyone else — to Mr. O'Donnell's dismay.

Democrats have long enjoyed an advantage in large metropolitan areas, and their mistake is assuming what's true today will be true tomorrow. Mr. Trump didn't win the popular vote because he convinced rural voters to turn out in large numbers — even

though they did so. Mr. Trump won because he broadened his support in nearly every demographic category.

Almost every neighborhood in New York City gave 5% to 10% more of their votes to the Republican candidate in 2024 than in 2020. In Chicago, Mr. Trump's share of the vote increased by 10 points.

Urban voters are starting to realize that things might be better if Democrats aren't running the show, particularly with respect to crime. Every county in California voted yes on Proposition 36, which rolls back some of the soft-on-crime measures that Ms. Harris helped put in place. It won by 70%.

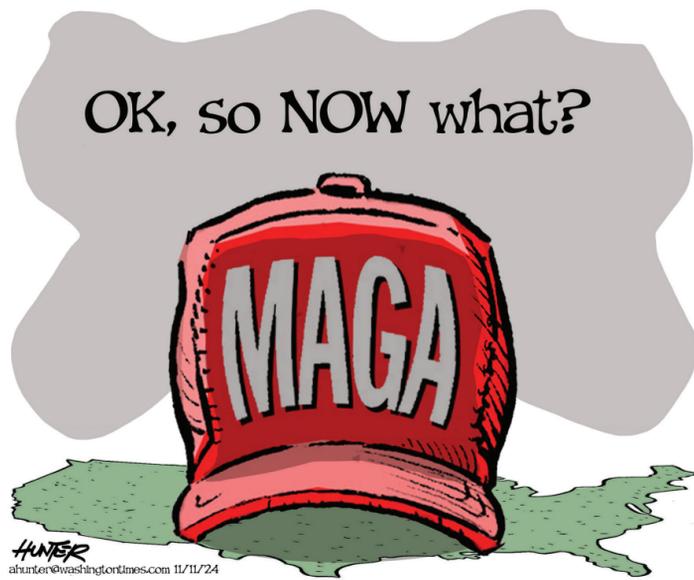
Ballot measures that would have allowed prisoners to avoid work, raised the minimum wage, imposed rent control and allowed cities to borrow more money all failed in one of the most liberal states in the nation.

Those crafty founders knew the losing side in political contests might try to give themselves a permanent advantage, so they insisted important changes could only be made with a constitutional amendment. This is a formidable barrier that keeps short-sighted politicians from messing with the careful balance between big and small states.

In 1977, political scholar Martin Diamond testified with his dying breath to the founders' genius.

"In any election, some states are scanted," he explained in a Senate subcommittee hearing. "They change from election to election, because this is a dynamic, flexible Electoral College. ... The marvelous thing about the Electoral College is its demographic responsiveness."

We just saw Mr. Trump prove the truth of that statement. He redrew the electoral map and achieved what myopic talking heads considered impossible. The 2024 election result is proof the system works.



Trump takes a crowbar to Obama coalition

His bold agenda can pry it wide open

By Tom Basile

With another election, the resiliency of the American system continues to inspire. Americans have shown not only themselves but the world that they know the formula for American exceptionalism. It's not slouching toward socialism or injecting Marxism into the recipe. It's not an abandonment of God or faith that breeds social and intellectual chaos.

Americans demonstrated a level of discernment and intelligence that liberal elites believe is beyond the capacity of the proletariat. They voted the way they did not because they universally love Donald Trump, though millions do, but because they understand the path of the nation's future was at stake.

In the wake of the election, Democrats continue to prove how disconnected they've become from the people. They are still straining to comprehend that this nation will reject open borders, sterilizing children, drag queens in elementary schools and siccing the FBI on Catholics, to say nothing of a blind fidelity to mass media.

Democrats, it appears, have no desire for introspection or modulation. Over the last week, they've leaned into Trump Derangement Syndrome and the other symptoms of what Elon Musk calls the "woke mind virus." Their old favorite explanations for losing including misogyny, White supremacy, patriarchy and racism have taken center stage. They're even calling Hispanics racists for voting for Mr. Trump.

There was the rhetoric about America entering a "dark period" from the vanquished Kamala Harris, pledges by Massachusetts Gov. Maura Healey to protect illegals and vows to keep fighting Mr. Trump by New York's attorney general, Leticia James, and its hapless governor, Kathy Hochul, despite his mandate to govern.

Celebrities are talking about fleeing the country and schools are creating safe spaces and puppy therapy sessions for students. Digital platforms are full of posts by angry young women promoting divorcing Trump-supporting husbands and abstinence from sex and having children to make the 54% of men who voted for the president-elect pay a heavy price.

Democrats are in the throes of denial and a psychotic episode, lashing out after trying in vain to conceal an extreme agenda with a cringeworthy candidate dubbed the "word salad queen."

Party leaders have good reason to melt down. Mr. Trump's performance with Hispanic voters, which could crest over 45%, support from 25% of Black men, appeal with private union workers, a 20-point

swing in his favor with Catholics and more big gains mean big trouble for the left.

Never before have we seen cracks in the Democratic voter coalition like those that were pried open as with a crowbar by a disciplined campaign and a message of plain old common sense. It has created exceptional political momentum for Republicans, if they can keep it.

The Democratic coalition is now largely angry single White women, single-issue abortion voters, trans activists, academics, self-proclaimed journalists and public sector union members — including those in the National Education Association and the American Federation of Teachers, which are cratering our nation's public schools.

These fissures can close if they're not widened by Mr. Trump's agenda over the next four years. He has the ability to relegate the Democratic Party to a bloc of coastal elites. Active engagement with the Black, Hispanic, Catholic and Jewish communities must be considered an indispensable component of both the Republican National Committee's and the administration's operations. That's about messaging, policy, showing up and building political infrastructure.

More than anything, real results on illegal immigration, crime, inflation, religious liberty, dismantling the censorship complex, respect for life and bringing innovation to government that will reduce the burden from Washington on every American.

Running a campaign is hard. Governing is harder. Here, too, Mr. Trump has a tremendous advantage.

He knows transitions and the early days of an administration can be chaotic if improperly managed. He knows now that the quality of the appointees and placing them quickly in key agencies matters. His electoral mandate and truncated administration timeline mean he will have more success than last time around recruiting the best and the brightest to serve Americans.

Instead of relying solely on political straphangers, Mr. Trump can build a team of experienced professionals with relevant private and public sector experience. People such as Mr. Musk and Robert F. Kennedy Jr. may make Beltway denizens nervous, but that kind of creative disruption can lead to bold reforms that take back power from the unelected bureaucracy.

The president-elect has been given a historic second chance. Capitalizing on this opportunity won't just make America stronger, freer and more prosperous. It could blunt the advance of the socialists and Marxists in our politics, government and other critical institutions. That would be something to celebrate.

.....
Tom Basile is the host of "America Right Now" on Newsmax TV and is a columnist with The Washington Times.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

No more Clinton-backed hoaxes

The majority of intelligent Americans and Washington Times readers are overjoyed and relieved that Clinton-Soros puppet Kamala "Hillary" Harris was defeated by Donald Trump ever so decisively.

Mr. Trump's historic political win marks the delicious end of Bill and Hillary's long and filthy reign over our country, including every major U.S. media outlet and journalist, each three-letter D.C. agency and director, their coven of Hollywood actors and

influencers and every surreptitious Clinton-Soros lawfare and sinister "resistance" cockroach the world over.

However, all Republicans — either holding office now, assuming office in 2025 or soon to be hired to make America great again in Mr. Trump's second term — must keep patriotic eyes and ears open to what crooked Hillary has cooking in her cauldron. Make no mistake: She's already at work concocting her next batch of nation-weakening plots, hoaxes, resistance

and shams to hurl at our president-elect on day one.

Republicans and Democrats must unite, heal and indeed save our beloved country by exposing and nipping in the bud every bit of new Clinton-concocted political vitriol. America no longer has the time, energy or money to waste on the sick and selfish Clinton political playbook.

BARON CHRISTOPHER HANSON
Palm Beach, Florida

The door's that way

The hosts of "The View" and some MSNBC and CNN commentators are saying they fear for their lives next year when Donald Trump takes office. Methinks they doth protest too much — all in the name of TV ratings.

Mr. Trump should offer them each \$1 million to leave the U.S. permanently and renounce their American citizenship. All their properties, investments

and government benefits would be transferred to a trust so they do not lose a penny. They would have to agree to never step foot on American soil again, however, or they would forfeit all their trust assets. Mr. Trump should require said offer to be accepted and executed by Jan. 3, 2025.

The president-elect would not have to pay a dime since all these folks know

they have nothing to fear from Mr. Trump and will make hundreds of millions the next four years smearing my next commander in chief. Hypocrisy, after all, is good business.

Cmdr. WAYNE L. JOHNSON
Judge Advocate General's Corps, U.S. Navy (retired)
Alexandria, Virginia

A comeback for the ages

Many people are rightly calling Donald Trump's reelection the "greatest comeback" of all time ("History's greatest comeback": From Israel to Ukraine, world leaders congratulate Trump on election," web, Nov. 6).

To those who have closely followed his very public business career, is this return (which makes Mr. Trump the second president in history to serve two nonconsecutive terms) really such a surprise? Mr. Trump endured tough economic times in the early 1990s and authored his second book, "Surviving at the Top," in which he predicted his business comeback a few years later after coining the phrase "Survive 'Til '05" as his battle cry.

By the end of that decade, Mr. Trump's rebound was complete — and he wrote his third book, "The Art of the Comeback." So he literally wrote the book on comebacks. Triumphant over adversity against all odds is clearly in his DNA.

As my parents used to preach, "A measure of a person's character is the amount of disappointment it takes to discourage him." What Donald Trump has endured over the past 9½ years (hoaxes, impeachments, fake stories, investigations, 94 felony accounts, two assassination attempts and a three-on-one presidential debate) would have been the undoing of

almost anyone else. The abuse he has suffered at the hands of the rabid political left was designed to trip him up and ruin his chances for reelection — yet he didn't let it. This man has demonstrated to the world that his character is something to admire.

Like him or not, Mr. Trump is now our tough-as-nails incoming president, representing the U.S. on the world stage. And he's not just any fighter, but an exquisitely trained heavyweight champion of the world. And the bad guys all know it.

LUANA DUNN
Medford, New York

Only themselves to blame

It is odd that so many members of the news media are searching far and wide for those upon whom to place blame for their favored candidate's losing the presidential

election. Why? Because that candidate assured the electorate — the vast majority of which believe the country is on the wrong track — that if she won, no changes would be

forthcoming. It's quite clear who's to blame.

JAMES HATFIELD
St. Augustine, Florida

The Washington Times

Published by The Washington Times LLC

THOMAS P. McDEVITT, Chairman
CHRISTOPHER DOLAN, President & Executive Editor

NEWS
CATHY GAINOR, Managing Editor
ANN WOG, Managing Editor Digital

JOHN BOURANTAS, Assistant Managing Editor
STEPHEN DINAN, Assistant Managing Editor
S.A. MILLER, Assistant Managing Editor
DAVID R. SANDS, Assistant Managing Editor
MARIA STAINER, Assistant Managing Editor
JOSEPH SZADKOWSKI, Assistant Managing Editor

EDITORIAL AND OPINION
CHARLES HURT, Opinion Editor

BUSINESS
RAYNARD BOLDING, Chief Financial Officer
ADAM VERCAMMEN, Chief Revenue Officer
TONY HILL, Advertising Director
DESHONDA MURRAY,
Director of Human Resources and Building Operations
JORGE CARRASQUILLO, Information Technology Director



Submissions: Op-eds may only be submitted by e-mail to commentary@washingtontimes.com

Letters to the Editor must be original, exclusive to The Washington Times and sent via email. We prefer letters that are fewer than 350 words. Please include your name, address and daytime telephone number. E-mail: yourletters@washingtontimes.com

Elections don't solve every problem

Politics cannot change the human heart

By Don Feder

Elections can have a major impact on the economy, foreign policy and public safety, as President-elect Donald Trump's historic victory surely will.

But many of our most intractable problems are impervious to a political solution.

In the United States, the idea that government is a cure-all originated with the New Deal. Before then, it was generally acknowledged that political power has its limits. Even Democrats were constitutionalists.

Today, government plays such a large role in our lives that elections take on the aspects of a cataclysmal event. Activists on both sides insist the country won't survive four years of governance by the other.

At best, politics can play a minor role in addressing the crises that afflict our society.

Church attendance, family formation and fertility are declining. Addiction, suicide and loneliness are on the rise.

Demographic winter follows the decline of the family. In 1978, 59% of 18- to 29-year-olds, those in their prime child-bearing years, were married. Today, only 20% of those in this age group are.

Government can make it easier to marry — for example, by ending the marriage tax penalty. But it can't make young people want to get married. The young are abandoning marriage for casual relationships at an alarming rate.

Religion once helped give direction to our lives. It aided us in understanding God's plan for humanity, including marriage and children. But religion is another casualty of modernity.

According to Gallup, 20 years ago, 42% of adults attended religious services weekly. Today, it's 30% and falling. Far from encouraging religion, the culture portrays the religious as hypocrites, frauds and superstitious bigots.

Government is far more interested in protecting abortion clinics than houses of worship.

As faith and purpose in life decline, addiction rises. Deaths from alcoholism, drugs and suicide went from 74,003 in 2002 to 207,827 in 2022.

Stopping fentanyl at the border would help. But there are enough drugs already in the country to keep everyone high for the rest of the century. Government used to tell people to just say no. Drug legalization is now a cool cause with politicians clamoring aboard the bandwagon.

Pornography is another drug that is on the rise.

It's estimated that 12% of all websites are devoted to pornography. In 2023, they generated \$1.1 billion in revenue and were viewed by 69% of men and 40% of American women. An estimated 5% to 11% of adults view porn daily.

Regular exposure to pornography leads to dissatisfaction in marriage and increased sexual violence. Government does little to curb exposure to sexually explicit material.

Surgeon General Vivek Murthy calls loneliness a public health epidemic. This may be due to the decline of the family, neighborhoods and churches, and social media addiction. According to a survey by the American Psychiatric Association, 30% of Americans 18 to 34 say they feel lonely every day or several times a week.

What can government do: send Hallmark cards — thinking of you — to the vulnerable?

These concerns are problems of the heart that government is not equipped to handle.

This is not to say that we shouldn't try to do something about drug and alcohol abuse, the decline of faith and family and pervasive loneliness. But is government action a practical approach? If Alcoholics Anonymous were run by the government, it would be happy hour 24/7.

Perhaps an obsessive focus on government keeps us from developing private solutions. The human heart is susceptible to change, but not to state authority.

We need to come home to faith, family and a sense of personal responsibility. Politics won't lead us there.

What Lincoln called the better angels of our nature will.

Don Feder is a columnist with The Washington Times.

Three things I think about the election

Trump improved his performance, voters prioritized economy and immigration, and questions about 2020 remain



ILLUSTRATION BY GREG GROESCH

As always, the commentariat has expended a lot of intellectual firepower examining the election results from every possible angle. As usual, most of that has been a waste of time.

Let's make it easy and focus on three things.

First, President-elect Donald Trump improved his performance among young voters, among independent voters and among Hispanics (by 14 percentage points, and at least 2 points better than President George W. Bush in 2004). He won the suburbs by 4 points, the same as 2016; and he continued to erode support for the Democrats among the working class.

Remarkably, the Republicans had a 4-point advantage (35%-31%) among voters in party identification. That's almost certainly a function of Republican voter registration drawing even with the Democrats in a bunch of states, which is, in turn, almost certainly a function of automatic registration when you reapply for your driver's license (which was Democrats' idea). You have to love irony.

The closeness in registration and the advantage in party identification suggests the Republicans are going to be reliably competitive — even after the departure of Mr. Trump — for some time.

The second thing that is striking is that about 4 in 5 voters identified either the economy or immigration as the issue that drove their vote. In the initial surge of victory, it is easy to think that voters agree with you on everything, and maybe they do.

But the numbers tell us that voters want the new Trump administration to focus on the basics — deliver on the economy and solve the immigration challenge. There doesn't appear to be much appetite among voters to reform the deep state or relitigate old battles.

The third thing about the election results that is immediately obvious — and that no one seems to be talking about — is that there were about 142 million voters this year, compared with about 158 million voters in 2020. That's very odd. In 2020, turnout as a percentage of voting age population was about 67%; this year, it was more like 54%.

There's no real reason for that. If anything, turnout in 2020, as the COVID-19

pandemic took hold, should have been lower. It's not just this year. In 2016, turnout (137 million) as a percentage of the voting age population was 55%. In 2012, turnout (129 million) as a percentage of voting age population was 54%. In fact, since 1932, there has only been one election (the ill-fated and controversial election of 1960) in which turnout was as high as the pandemic election of 2020.

I'm not a big believer that the 2020 election was stolen, but the macro numbers are divergent enough from the historical trend line to make any reasonable person wonder whether there should be some closer examination of that election.

Michael McKenna is a contributing editor at The Washington Times.

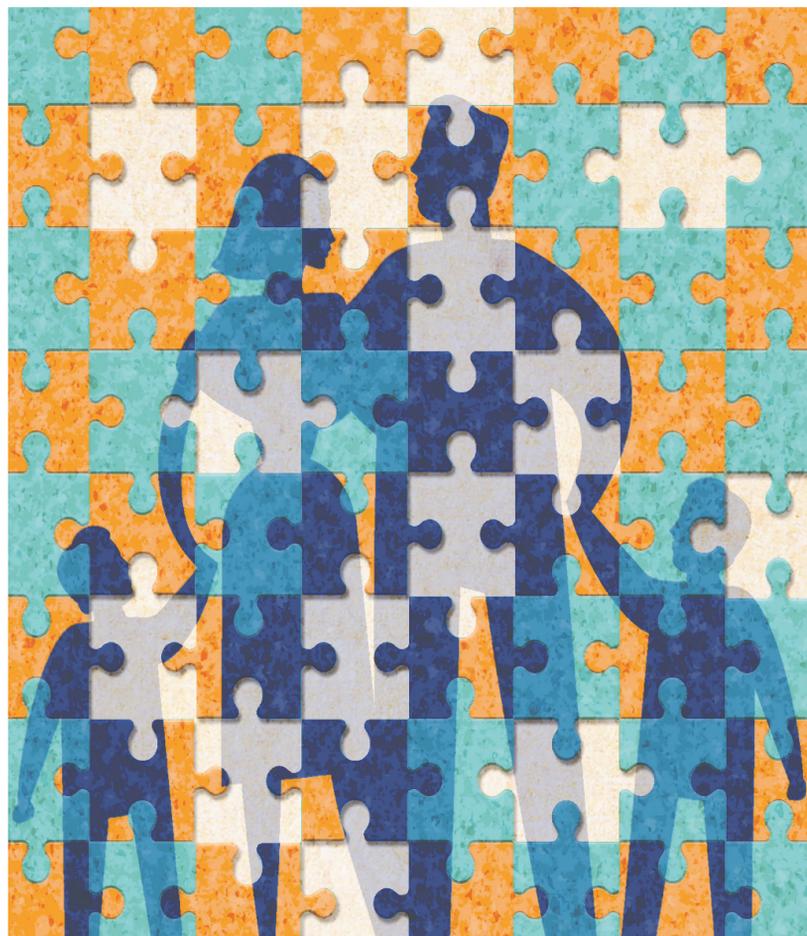


ILLUSTRATION BY GREG GROESCH

Government is incapable of dealing with any of this except in small ways.

The United States has had a below-replacement fertility rate since the early 1970s. The fertility rate is the number of children the average woman has in her lifetime. A total fertility rate of 2.1 is needed just to replace current population. In 2023, our rate was 1.62, the lowest ever recorded.

Sometime in the next 20 years, we'll begin losing people. With an aging population, how will we pay for Social Security and other tax-funded programs? Where will we find the workers of tomorrow?

European nations have tried various incentives to boost their birthrate, including generous maternity leave and subsidized child care. None have had more than a temporary effect. Government can't make people want to have children.

Knight

From page B1

people to buy electric cars and trucks. The cost of this just for 18-wheelers, which haul goods nationwide, is absurd.

People are tired of being lied to by Democrats and a servile media that help them advance insane policies and covers up the damage.

No, voters said, inflation is not fine now. No, boys can't turn into girls. No, transgender athletes should not compete against girls and women. No, Vice President Kamala Harris is not tough on border security.

No, crime is not down. No, America is not an evil nation that must be torn down and rebuilt. No, Mr. Trump is not Hitler. No, Vice President-elect J.D. Vance is not Mussolini. No, Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz won't be mistaken for Chuck Norris.

Mr. Trump's stint working the drive-thru window at McDonald's and his arrival at a rally in the cab of a garbage truck shattered the left's vilification of him as an evil dictator. He made it clear he sided with those that President Biden called "garbage" and against the ruling elites.

Democrats were obsessed with abortion, even though polls showed it far down the list of top issues.

Nearly every Democrat made abortion the centerpiece in their campaigns, plus they cast Trump as a threat to end "democracy."

It did work in some places, such as deep blue Maryland, where the winning Senate candidate, Angela Alsobrooks, pounded former Republican Gov. Larry Hogan over abortion and Mr. Trump. Mr. Hogan lost even



ILLUSTRATION BY HUNTER

though he dissed Mr. Trump and knelt at the altar of Molech.

Nationally, abortion didn't prove decisive. Republicans comfortably captured the White House, at least 53

Senate seats and probably retained the House.

Although turnout figures seem elusive, it's a good bet that Christians voted in record numbers. Catholics

picked Mr. Trump by a nearly 20-point margin after backing Mr. Biden in 2020. Six in 10 Protestants supported Mr. Trump, including 80% of White evangelicals, a 4-point increase.

Mr. Trump's support of Israel increased his Jewish vote to 32% overall and to nearly half in New York.

Minorities voted in record numbers for Mr. Trump and Republicans. Mr. Trump carried 54% of Hispanic men and 46% of the Hispanic vote overall.

Although former President Barack Obama accused Black men of misogyny if they didn't vote for Ms. Harris, young Black men doubled their support for Mr. Trump, including 5-point increases in the swing states of Wisconsin and North Carolina.

Mr. Trump lost by only 6 points among 18- to 29-year-olds, a group that Mr. Biden won by 25 points in 2020. And Mr. Trump won big — 56% to 43% — among first-time voters, a reversal of 2020.

Even the kids are fed up with inflation and they/them cancel culture.

Another huge factor was Elon Musk's purchase of Twitter. For years, leftist Twitter employees routinely censored content. Mr. Musk, who donated at least \$120 million to the Trump campaign and revamped the social media platform into X, an outlet for conservative voices as well as liberal ones.

Other factors: The Trump-directed Republican National Committee dispatched hundreds of workers and lawyers to quell suspected vote fraud.

In 2020, Meta founder Mark Zuckerberg poured \$400 million into Wisconsin and other battleground states so leftists could turn election offices into Democratic get-out-the-vote operations.

Not this time. Mr. Zuckerberg also vowed not to allow the FBI and other federal agencies to pressure Facebook and Instagram into censoring conservatives anymore.

In Los Angeles, District Attorney George Gascon lost to tough-on-crime Nathan Hochman. Across California, Prop 36 easily passed, reversing a 2014 law that had unleashed a crime wave by downgrading felony thefts of under \$950 to misdemeanors.

The stakes were, as Mr. Trump would say, "huge."

Had Ms. Harris had won the presidency, we would have millions more illegal immigrants, looser voter ID laws, more extremely liberal judges, more green insanity, more LGBTQ mandates and more attacks on religious liberty.

This would have birthed a one-party central government in which elections were no longer meaningful.

But it didn't happen, thanks be to God.

This is why so many people had election night jitters and why, as Psalm 30 says, "joy comes in the morning."

Evangelist Billy Graham once wrote a devotional piece that started with this:

"Crossing the North Atlantic years ago, I looked out my porthole and saw the blackest cloud I had ever seen. Certain that we were in for a terrible storm, I asked the steward about it.

"He said, 'Oh, we've already come through. The storm is behind us.'"

I was reading this on the morning after the election.

Robert Knight is a columnist for The Washington Times. His website is roberthknight.com.

Legal Advertising DC/MD 202-636-3109 • VA 703-425-0903

Place your ad online now – we are open 24 hours, 7 days a week at washingtontimes.com

Employment Opportunities

Software Developers (Gaithersburg, MD) Gather requirements & analyze functional specifications. Conduct & participate in code reviews. Master's degree in Computer Science, Engineering, Information Technology Management, Information Systems or Equivalent. Travel/Relocation to client locations within the U.S. as and when required by the client. The frequency and nature of travel or relocation will depend on client's project requirements and delivery timelines. Mail resume to: Certify Global Inc. Attn: HRGC, 656 Quince Orchard Rd., Ste. 300, Gaithersburg, MD 20878.

Announcement

DENTAL INSURANCE from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. Coverage for 350 plus procedures. Real dental insurance - NOT just a discount plan. Do not wait! Call now! Get your FREE Dental Information Kit with all the details! 1-855-337-5228 www.dental50plus.com/MDDC #6258

Get DISH Satellite TV + Internet! Free Install, Free HD-DVR Upgrade, 80,000 On-Demand Movies. Plus Limited Time Up To \$600 in Gift Cards. Call Today! 1-855-407-6870

DONATE YOUR CAR/TRUCK/RV - Lutheran Mission Society of MD Compassion Place ministries help local families with food, clothing, counseling, Tax deductible. MVA licensed #W1044. 410-228-8437 www.CompassionPlace.org

Prepare for power outages today with a GENERAC Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a FREE 5-Year warranty with qualifying purchase. Call 1-855-993-0969 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move.

Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 15% off Entire Purchase. 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-844-566-3227

Let the Multimedia Specialists of MDCC Ad Services help you in growing your business and increasing your customer base. Call today at 855-721-MDDC, Ext. 4 and start seeing results NOW.

Save loads of money with your advertising budgets! CONNECT with the Multimedia Specialists of MDCC Ad Services. Expand your brand's reach in our Bulk Advertising Network - CALL TODAY! With one call, one placement, one bill, you'll reach over 1,000,000 readers in the entire Mid-Atlantic region. Call 855-721-MDDC, Ext. 4 or email kberrier@mdccpress.com.

Real Estate & Related Services

We Buy Houses for Cash AS IS! No repairs. No fuss. Any condition. Easy three step process: Call, get cash offer and get paid. Get your fair cash offer today by calling Liz Buys Houses: 1-866-541-7929

Pet Supplies & Services

Live Fish for stocking ponds. Many varieties available. Free delivery on orders \$500+ to your pond. Call Zetts Fish Farm & Hatchery for information & free catalogue. 304-995-9202. Cell 304-820-6986.

Business & Office Services

Increase the digital presence of your business! Contact MDCC Ad Services to receive a FREE Digital Footprint Consultation for your business from a TOP PERFORMING advertising agency! Call 855-721-MDDC, Ext. 4, www.mdccadservices.com.

Electrical Services

Replace your roof with the best looking and longest lasting material - steel from Erie Metal Roofs! Three styles and multiple colors available. Guaranteed to last a lifetime! Limited Time Offer - up to 50% off installation + Additional 10% off install (for military, health workers & 1st responders.) Call Erie Metal Roofs: 1-844-902-4611

Switch and save up to \$250/year on your talk, text and data. No contract and no hidden fees. Unlimited talk and text with flexible data plans. Premium nationwide coverage. 100% U.S. based customer service. For more information, call 1-855-262-5564

Home Improvement

The bathroom of your dreams in as little as 1 day. Limited Time Offer - \$1000 off or No Payments and No Interest for 18 months for customers who qualify. BCI Bath & Shower. Many options available. Quality materials & professional installation. Senior & Military Discounts Available. Call Today! 1-844-945-1631

Prepare for power outages today with a Generac Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a FREE 7-Year warranty with qualifying purchase. Call 1-844-947-1479 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move.

Safe Step North America's #1 Walk-In Tub. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our FREE shower package and \$1600 Off for a limited time! Call today! Financing available. Call Safe Step 1-877-591-9950

Vinyl Replacement Windows Installed! Starting at \$250 Call 804-739-8207 for More Details! Ronnie Jenkins II Windows, Siding, Roofing and Gutters! FREE Estimates! Call 804-739-8207 for More Details! American Made Products!

Legal Services

DENTAL INSURANCE from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. Coverage for 350 plus procedures. Real dental insurance -

NOT just a discount plan. Do not wait! Call now! Get your FREE Dental Information Kit with all the details! 1-888-550-3083 www.dental50plus.com/virginia #6258

DIVORCE - Uncontested. \$475+\$86 court cost. WILLS-\$295.00. No court appearance. Estimated completion time twenty-one days. Hilton Oliver, Attorney (Facebook). 757-490-0126. Se Habla Espanol. BBB Member. <https://hiltonoliverattorneyva.com>.

Medical Services

Portable Oxygen Concentrator May Be Covered by Medicare! Reclaim independence and mobility with the compact design and long-lasting battery of Inogen One. Free information kit! Call 888-608-4974

Real Estate Services

We Buy Houses for Cash AS IS! No repairs. No fuss. Any condition. Easy three step process: Call, get cash offer and get paid. Get your fair cash offer today by calling Liz Buys Houses: 1-844-216-5028

Legal Ads

Bids & Proposals

TOWN OF RIVERDALE PARK

Notice of Invitation to submit proposals

This is to give notice that the Town of Riverdale Park, Maryland, is accepting proposals for **Custodial Services for Municipal Center Buildings - RFP No. DPW 2024-009** until **Wednesday, November 21, 2024, at 12:00 p.m.** A public bid opening will occur later that day at **12:30 p.m. via Zoom**. To join, visit:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84242076149>

Or call: 301-715-8592 (Meeting ID: 842 4207 6149)

An in-person **Pre-Proposal Meeting & Building Tour** is scheduled for **Wednesday, November 13, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.**, at **5008 Queensbury Road, Riverdale Park, MD 20737**.

A copy of the RFP No. **DPW 2024-009** may be found at www.RiverdaleParkMD.gov and eMaryland Marketplace. Questions concerning the Invitation to Bid must be directed to RFP-BIDQuestions@RiverdaleParkMD.gov.

Publication Dates: November 11th, 2024
November 12th, 2024

AD#88518

Legal Notices

ARLINGTON COUNTY COURTHOUSE PUBLIC NOTICE

Please take notice THAT ON Wednesday, November 20, 2024, at a meeting of the ARLINGTON COUNTY HISTORICAL AFFAIRS AND LANDMARK REVIEW BOARD (HALRB) at 6:30 p.m., in person and through electronic communications means, a PUBLIC HEARING will be held on the following applications for a Certificate of Appropriateness (CoA) and for other business:

MAYWOOD LOCAL HISTORIC DISTRICT Z-2686-90

- 3421 21st Ave. N. (RPC: 05-054-023) – Request to install a trash enclosure.

HOW TO VIEW AND PARTICIPATE

This is a hybrid public meeting to be held at the Bozman Government Center and be available to the public in person and through electronic communication means. Staff and commissioners will be in person in Room 311 at 2100 Clarendon Boulevard. Applicants, County staff, and members of the public may join the meeting in person or virtually via Microsoft Teams.

The public can participate by sharing live verbal testimony in person or on-line, or by submitting written comments in advance. Visit <https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Commissions-and-Advisory-Groups/Historical-Affairs-Landmark-Review-Board> to:

- Sign-up to speak on-line during the public hearing by 5:00 PM on the day of the hearing.
 - o Speakers will join the meeting via Microsoft Teams (accessible through a web browser or the free app), or, via a phone line to provide their comments.
 - o To register by phone, contact the Board's staff liaison, Mical Tawney at 703-228-3838 by 5:00 PM the day of the hearing.
- In person speakers may register by completing a speaker slip in the meeting room before the meeting begins or by registering online by 5:00 PM on the day of the hearing.
- Submit written comments online to the Historical Affairs and Landmark Review Board. Comments received by 2:00 PM on the day of the hearing will be provided to the Board in advance of the public hearing.

For questions about this notice, contact Mical Tawney, mtawney@arlingtonva.us; 703-228-3838.

Run Date: November 11th, 2024

AD#88497

FRIENDSHIP PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Various Services

Friendship Public Charter School request for proposals for prospective vendors to provide:

- Clinical Vision Provider Services for Visually Impaired Students
- Real-estate Program Management and Owner Representation Services
- Infrastructure Services and Technical Support

The competitive RFP can be found on FPSC website at: <http://www.friendshipschools.org/procurement>. Proposals are due no later than 4:00 P.M., EST, Tuesday November 26, 2024. Questions and Proposals should be submitted on-line at: Procurementinquiry@friendshipschools.org. All bids not addressing all areas as outlined in the RFP will not be considered. No proposals will be accepted after the deadline.

November 11, 2024

Ad#88519

JOIN OUR TEAM
washingtontimes.com/careers
The Washington Times

NOTICE

In accordance with Section 10-312 of the Annotated Code of Maryland and Montgomery County Code Chapter 11B.45.01, Montgomery County, Maryland, announces that it proposes to dispose through long-term lease a portion of the grounds of the County owned property at 9701 Main Street, Damascus, 20872, Tax Account No. 12-00927475, to the Damascus Heritage Society, Inc. There will be no rent charged under this lease. More information about the transfer can be found here: <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/exec/Resources/Files/144-24.pdf>

Written comments must be received no later than close of business on Tuesday, November 26, 2024. Comments should be addressed to:

Ronnie Warner, Chief
Office of Planning and Development
Dept. of General Services
101 Monroe Street, 9th floor
Rockville, Maryland 20850
or e-mail
OPD.DGS@montgomerycountymd.gov

November 11, 2024
Ad#88522

WE ARE SOCIAL
[instagram.com/WashTimes](https://www.instagram.com/WashTimes)
The Washington Times

RECEIVE NEWS AS IT HAPPENS

Download our FREE APP at the App Store or Google Play

The Washington Times

Trustee Sales: DC

COHN, GOLDBERG & DEUTSCH, LLC
1099 WINTERSON ROAD, SUITE 301
LINTHICUM HEIGHTS, MARYLAND 21090

TRUSTEE FORECLOSURE SALE OF IMPROVED REAL PROPERTY
1734 MONTELO AVENUE, N.E.
WASHINGTON, DC 20002

The undersigned Trustees will sell at public auction at the Auctioneers Gallery of Tidewater Auctions, LLC, Chevy Chase Pavilion, 5335 Wisconsin Ave N.W., Suite 440, Washington, DC 20015, on

November 15, 2024 AT 11:00 A.M.

THE ABOVE-DESCRIBED PROPERTY AND IMPROVEMENTS THEREON situated in Washington, DC and more fully described in a Deed of Trust from 1734 Montello LLC, dated December 11, 2020, recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for the District of Columbia at Instrument Number 2020157619 on December 22, 2020, with an original principal balance of \$1,770,832.40, and an original interest rate of 9.99% per annum with a default rate of 19.99% per annum, default having occurred under the terms thereof.

Lot numbered Thirteen (13) in David B. Gottwall's subdivision of Lot numbered Four (4) in Block numbered Fourteen (14); "Trinidad", as per plat recorded in Liber County 11 at folio 95 in the Office of the Surveyor for the District of Columbia.

Said Block numbered Fourteen (14) now known for purposes of assessment and taxation as Square numbered Forty Hundred Fifty-three (4053).

The property will be sold by Trustee's Deed "as is" without any covenant, expressed or implied, in fee simple subject to conditions, restrictions, easements, and all other recorded instruments superior to the Deed of Trust referenced above.

Terms of Sale:
A deposit of the lesser of \$85,000.00 or ten percent (10%) of the winning bid amount will be required at time of sale, in cash, certified check, or other form as Trustees may determine. The deposit required to bid at the auction is waived for the Noteholder and any of its successors or assigns. The Noteholder may bid up to the amount owed on the Note plus all costs and expenses of sale on credit and may submit a written bid to the Trustee which shall be announced at sale. The Balance of the purchase price to be paid in cash within 30 days of the sale. At the Trustees' discretion, the foreclosure purchaser, if a corporation or LLC, must produce evidence, prior to bidding, of the legal formation of such entity.

TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE. If purchaser fails to settle within the aforesaid thirty (30) days of the sale, the purchaser agrees to pay the Trustees' reasonable attorney fees, plus all costs incurred, if the Trustees have to resell the property. If the purchaser fails to go to settlement the deposit shall be forfeited to the Trustees and all expenses of this sale (including attorney fees and full commission on the gross sales price of the sale) shall be charged against and paid from the forfeited deposit. In the event of resale, the defaulting purchaser shall not be entitled to any surplus proceeds or profits resulting from any resale of the property regardless of any improvements made to the real property. Interest is to be paid on the unpaid purchase money at the rate of 19.99% per annum from the date of sale to the date the funds are received in the office of the Trustees. In the event that the settlement is delayed for ANY REASON WHATSOEVER, there shall be no abatement of interest. Taxes, 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, to be adjusted for the current year to date of sale and assumed thereafter by the purchaser. Purchaser shall be responsible for the costs of all transfer taxes, documentary stamps and all other costs incident to settlement. Purchaser shall be responsible for physical possession of the property. Purchaser assumes the risk of loss from the date of sale forward. The sale is subject to post sale audit by the Mortgage holder to determine whether the borrower filed bankruptcy, entered into any repayment/forbearance agreement, reinstated, or paid off prior to the sale. In any such event the Purchaser agrees that upon notification by the Trustees of such event the sale is null and void and of no legal effect and the deposit returned without interest. Additional terms may be announced at sale.

Richard E. Solomon, Richard J. Rogers, Michael McKeefery, Christianna Kersey, Kevin Hildebeidel, Kyle Blackstone, and Kathleen Young, Substitute Trustees

Tidewater Auctions, LLC
(410) 825-2900
www.tidewaterauctions.com

Washington Times, 11/4, 11/6, 11/8, 11/11, 11/11, 11/13
CGD File #:460385 Ad#87861

Legal Notices

DC & Maryland
202-636-4953
Virginia
703-425-0903



The Washington Times



Trustee Sales: Prince George's Co.

Quintaros, Prieto, Wood & Boyer, P.A. 1966 Greenspring Drive, Suite LL2 Lutherville-Timonets, Maryland 21093 (410) 238-2840

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEES' SALE OF RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY

14809 Ashford Court, Laurel, MD 20707

Under a power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust from Corky D. McCorkle and Adrienne J. King-Corkle dated October 12, 2006 and recorded in Liber 27462, Folio 001 among the Land Records of Prince George's County, Maryland, with an original principal balance of \$248,250.00, default having occurred under the terms thereof, the Substitute Trustees will sell at public auction at the Circuit Court for Prince George's County, in front of the Main Street Entrance to the Duval Wing of the Prince George's County Courthouse Complex, 14735 Main Street, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772, on

Tuesday, November 19, 2024 AT 11:30 AM

ALL THAT FEE-SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND and the improvements thereon situated in Prince George's County, MD and more fully described in the aforesaid Deed of Trust. The real property is known as 14809 Ashford Court, Laurel, MD 20707. Tax ID #10-1064294 Tax Map 0006, Grid 00A3, Parcel 0000.

Terms of Sale: The property will be sold "as is" and subject to conditions, restrictions, easements and agreements of any kind, including, but not limited to, no warranty of any kind. A deposit of \$24,800.00 in the form of cash, cashier's check, certified check, or other form as the Substitute Trustees determine acceptable, is required at the time of auction. 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. At the Substitute Trustees' discretion, the foreclosure purchaser, if a corporation or LLC, must produce evidence, prior to bidding, of the legal formation of such entity. The purchaser, other than the Holder of the Note, its assigns, or designees, shall pay interest on the unpaid purchase money at the rate of 5.125% per annum from the date of foreclosure auction to the date funds are received in the office of the Substitute Trustees. In the event settlement is delayed for any reason, there shall be no abatement of interest. Real estate taxes and all other public charges, or assessments, ground rent, or condo/HOA assessments, not otherwise divested by ratification of the sale, to be adjusted as of the date of foreclosure auction and assumed thereafter by the purchaser. Purchaser will take title subject to any private utility water and sewer covenants, charges, or front foot benefit payments associated therewith for the remaining duration of the same. Cost of all documentary stamps, transfer taxes and settlement expenses, and all other costs incident to settlement 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.

TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE. If the purchaser shall fail to comply with the terms of the sale or fails to go to settlement within ten (10) days of ratification of the sale, the Substitute Trustees may, in addition to any other available remedies, declare the entire deposit forfeited and resell the property at the risk and cost of the defaulting purchaser, and the purchaser agrees to pay reasonable attorneys' fees for the Substitute Trustees, plus all costs incurred, if the Substitute Trustees have filed the appropriate motion with the Court to resell the property. Purchaser waives personal service of any paper filed in connection with such a motion on himself and/or any principal or corporate designee, and expressly agrees to accept service of any such paper by regular mail directed to the address provided by said bidder at the time of foreclosure auction. In such event, the defaulting purchaser shall be liable for the payment of any deficiency in the purchase price, all costs and expenses of resale, reasonable attorney's fees, and all other charges due and incidental and consequential damages, and any deficiency in the underlying secured debt. The purchaser shall not be entitled to any surplus proceeds or profits resulting from any resale of the property. If the Substitute Trustees cannot convey insurable title, the purchaser's sole remedy at law or in equity shall be the return of the deposit without interest. 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 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 his deposit without interest.

NOTE: The information contained herein was obtained from sources deemed to be reliable, but is offered for informational purposes only. Neither the auctioneer, the beneficiary of the Deed of Trust, the Substitute Trustee nor his agents or attorneys make any representations or warranties with respect to the accuracy of information.

PROSPECTIVE PURCHASERS ARE URGED TO PERFORM THEIR OWN DUE DILIGENCE WITH RESPECT TO THE PROPERTY PRIOR TO THE FORECLOSURE AUCTION. For additional information, please contact the Substitute Trustees.

Mark H. Wittstadt, Substitute Trustee

Tidewater Auctions, LLC 305 West Chesapeake Avenue, Suite 105, Towson, Maryland 21204 410-825-2900 www.tidewaterauctions.com www.auction.com

Washington Times,11/4, 11/11, 11/18 Ad#87944

Trustee Sales: Prince George's Co.

Law Offices of Jeffrey Nadel 4041 Powder Mill Road, Suite 200 Calverton, Maryland 20705 240-473-5000

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEES' SALE OF REAL PROPERTY

11218 Cherry Hill Road, Unit 202 Beltsville, MD 20705

Under a power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust from Amadu P. Kamara, dated February 13, 2006, and recorded in Liber 24523, Folio 600 among the Land Records of Prince George's County, MD, default having occurred under the terms thereof, the Substitute Trustee will sell at public auction at Circuit Court for Prince George's Co., 14735 Main St., Upper Marlboro, MD, Duval Wing entrance, located on Main St. on

November 19, 2024 at 11:30 AM

ALL THAT FEE SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND KNOWN AS Unit 202 a/k/a Unit 233, The Cherry Glen Condominium, situated in Prince George's County, MD and more fully described in the aforesaid Deed of Trust, carrying Tax ID No. 01-0011635.

The property will be sold in an "as is" condition and subject to conditions, restrictions, agreements, easements, covenants and rights of way of record affecting the same, if any, and with no warranty of any kind.

Terms of Sale: A deposit of \$15,000.00 will be required at the time of sale in the form of cash, certified check, or other form as the Substitute Trustees determine acceptable. No deposit shall be required of the noteholder where the noteholder bids in the property at auction. 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 being of the essence for purchaser. In the event that settlement does not occur within the said ten days, the purchaser shall be in default. Upon such default the Trustees may file a Motion and Order to Resell the property at the risk and expense of the defaulting purchaser, and purchaser(s) hereby consent to entry of such resale order without further notice, in which case the deposit shall be forfeited and 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 readvertise and resell the property at the risk and cost of the defaulting purchaser; or, without reselling the property, the Trustees may avail themselves of any legal or equitable remedies against the defaulting purchaser. 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. Interest to be paid on the purchase money less the stated deposit called for herein, at the rate pursuant to the Deed of Trust Note from the date of auction to the date funds are received in the office of the Substitute Trustee. There shall be no abatement of interest due from the purchaser in the event additional funds are tendered before settlement or if settlement is delayed for any reason, including but not limited to exceptions to sale, bankruptcy filings by interested parties, Court administration of the foreclosure or unknown title defects. All 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, are to be adjusted to the date of auction and thereafter are to be assumed by the purchaser. Cost of all documentary stamps, transfer taxes, agricultural transfer tax, if any 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 damage to the property from the date of auction forward. If the Substitute Trustee does not convey title for any reason, including but not limited to the Secured Party executing a forbearance agreement with the borrower(s) described in the above-mentioned Deed of Trust, or allowing 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, or if the sale is not ratified for any reason including errors made by the Substitute Trustees, the foreclosure sale shall be null and void and of no effect, and the Purchaser's sole remedy in law or in equity shall be the return of the deposit without interest. Further terms and particulars may be announced at time of sale, and purchaser may be required to execute a Memorandum of Sale at the time of auction. (Matter #301362)

Jeffrey Nadel and Scott Nadel, Substitute Trustees

Tidewater Auctions, LLC 305 West Chesapeake Avenue, Suite 105, Towson, Maryland 21204 410-825-2900

Washington Times,11/4, 11/11, 11/18

Trustee Sales: Fairfax Co.

TRUSTEE'S SALE 702 FALL PL HERNDON, VA 20170

In execution of the Deed of Trust in the original principal amount of \$400,000.00, dated October 5, 2007, and recorded in Deed Book 19600, Page 1175 and as Instrument Number 2007029470.021 in Fairfax County land records, the appointed Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction at the front of the Fairfax County Circuit Court (Fairfax County Judicial Center, 4110 Chain Bridge Road), at Fairfax, Virginia 22030 on December 09, 2024 at 2:45PM, the property described in said deed of trust, located at the above address and more particularly described as follows:

LOT FIFTY-EIGHT (58), SECTION ONE (1), FOUR SEASONS, AS THE SAME APPEARS DULY DEDICATED, PLATTED AND RECORDED IN DEED BOOK 3792 AT PAGE 463, AMONG THE LAND RECORDS OF FAIRFAX COUNTY, VIRGINIA. The property and improvements will be sold in "as is" physical condition without warranty of any kind.

TERMS OF SALE: A non-refundable bidder's deposit of 10% of the sale price or 10% of the original principal amount of the subject Deed of Trust, whichever is lower, by cashier's or certified check required at time of sale except for the party secured by the Deed of Trust. Risk of loss on purchaser from date and time of auction. Balance of the purchase price must be paid by cashier's check within 15 days from sale date. Except for Virginia Grantor tax, all settlement costs and expenses are purchaser's responsibility. Taxes are pro-rated to the date of sale. Purchaser is responsible for obtaining possession of the property. If purchaser defaults, deposit may be forfeited and property resold at the risk and cost of the defaulting purchaser who shall be liable for any deficiency in the purchase price and all costs, expenses and attorney's fees of both sales. If Trustee does not convey title for any reason, purchaser's sole remedy is return of deposit without interest. This sale is subject to post-sale audit of the status of the loan secured by the Deed of Trust including but not limited to determining whether prior to sale a bankruptcy was filed, a forbearance, repayment or other agreement was entered into or the loan was reinstated or paid off; in any such event this sale shall be null and void and purchaser's sole remedy shall be return of deposit without interest. This communication is from a debt collector and is an attempt to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE: RAS Trustee Services, LLC, 101 North Lynnhaven Road, Suite 104, Virginia Beach, Virginia 23452

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: RAS Trustee Services, LLC, c/o Robertson, Anschutz, Schneid, Crane & Partners, PLLC 11350 McCormick Road, Executive Plaza 1, Suite 302 Hunt Valley, Maryland 21031 (844) 442-2150 (470) 321-7112

November 4th, 2024 November 11th, 2024

AD#87678

Trustee Sales: Fairfax Co.

TRUSTEE'S SALE 5454 Broadmoor St Alexandria, VA 22315

In execution of the Deed of Trust dated December 19, 2022 and recorded on December 20, 2022 in Book 27821 at Page 258 in Instrument # 2022083673.002 of Fairfax County land records, Trustee Services of Virginia, LLC, the appointed Substitute Trustee, will offer for sale at public auction at the front of the Fairfax County Circuit Court (Fairfax County Judicial Center, 4110 Chain Bridge Road), at Fairfax, Virginia on December 17, 2024 at 10:00 AM the property more particularly described in the aforementioned Deed of Trust, located at the property address listed below and briefly identified as follows:

The following described property situate and being in the County of Fairfax, Commonwealth of Virginia:

Lot Five Hundred Twenty-Five-A (525-A), as per plat entitled "Plat showing a Resubdivision of a portion of Section Six (6), Hayfield Farm" as attached to a Deed of Vacation and Resubdivision recorded in Deed Book 3015 at page 538 among the land records of Fairfax County, Virginia.

For information purposes only: Parcel Number 1002 02 0525A.

Tax No.: 1002 02 0525A

Property address: 5454 Broadmoor St, Alexandria, VA 22315

The property will be sold "AS IS," WITHOUT REPRESENTATION OR WARRANTY OF ANY KIND AND SUBJECT TO conditions, covenants, restrictions, reservations, easements, rights of way, and all other matters of record taking priority over the Deed of Trust, if any.

Pursuant to Code of Virginia § 55.1-321(A2), if the property is being sold subject to another priority security instrument(s), purchaser must certify that purchaser shall pay off any priority security instrument(s) no later than 90 days from the date the trustee's deed conveying the property being sold is recorded in the land records.

TERMS OF SALE: A non-refundable bidder's deposit of \$61,000.00 or 10% of the sale price, whichever is less, by cashier's or certified check required at time of sale, except for the party secured by the Deed of Trust. Risk of loss is on the purchaser from date and time of auction. Balance of the purchase price must be paid by cashier's check within 14 days from sale date. Except for Virginia Grantor tax, all settlement costs and expenses are purchaser's responsibility. Taxes are pro-rated to the date of sale. Purchaser is responsible for obtaining possession of the property. If purchaser defaults, deposit may be forfeited and property resold at the risk and cost of the defaulting purchaser who shall be liable for any deficiency in the purchase price and all costs, expenses, and attorney's fees of both sales. If Trustee does not convey title for any reason, purchaser's sole remedy is return of deposit without interest. This sale is subject to post-sale audit of the status of the loan secured by the Deed of Trust including but not limited to determining whether prior to sale a forbearance, repayment, or other agreement was entered into, the loan was reinstated or paid off, or whether the property became subject to an automatic stay under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code prior to the sale; in any such event this sale shall be null and void and purchaser's sole remedy shall be return of deposit without interest. Pursuant to the Federal Fair Debt Collections Practices Act, this law firm is a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

(24-25627)

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

BROCK & SCOTT, PLLC (Attorney for TRUSTEE SERVICES OF VIRGINIA, LLC) 484 Viking Drive, Suite 203 Virginia Beach, VA 23452 (757) 213-2959

November 11th, 2024 November 18th, 2024

AD#87865

Trustee Sales: Prince William Co.

TRUSTEE'S SALE 9855 Oakdale Woods Court, Vienna, VA 22181

THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

In execution of the Deed of Trust in the original principal amount of \$160,300.00 dated May 7, 2003, and recorded May 9, 2003, as Instrument No. 2003015147.006, and in Deed Book 14411, Page 0859, of the Fairfax County land records, the appointed Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction at the front of the Fairfax County Circuit Court, Fairfax County Judicial Center, 4110 Chain Bridge Rd, Fairfax, Virginia 22030, on December 9, 2024, at 2:15pm, the property described in said deed of trust, located at the above address and more particularly described as follows:

Lot Forty-Four (44), OAKTON CLOISTERS, as the same appears duly dedicated, platted and recorded in Deed Book 4632 at Page 835, among the land records of Fairfax County, Virginia.

Tax ID #: 048117 0044

The property and improvements will be sold in "as is" physical condition without warranty of any kind.

TERMS OF SALE: A non-refundable bidder's deposit of 10% of the sale price or 10% of the original principal amount of the subject Deed of Trust, whichever is lower, by cashier's or certified check, required at time of sale except for the party secured by the Deed of Trust. Risk of loss on purchaser from date and time of auction. Balance of the purchase price must be paid by cashier's check within 15 days from sale date. Except for Virginia Grantor's tax, all settlement costs and expenses are purchaser's responsibility. Taxes are pro-rated to the date of sale. Purchaser is responsible for obtaining possession of the property. If purchaser defaults, deposit may be forfeited and property resold at the risk and cost of the defaulting purchaser who shall be liable for any deficiency in the purchase price and all costs, expenses and attorney's fees of both sales. If Trustee does not convey title for any reason, purchaser's sole remedy is return of deposit without interest. This sale is subject to post-sale audit of the status of the loan secured by the Deed of Trust including but not limited to determining whether prior to sale a bankruptcy was filed, a forbearance, repayment or other agreement was entered into or the loan was reinstated or paid off; in any such event this sale shall be null and void and purchaser's sole remedy shall be return of deposit without interest. This communication is from a debt collector and is an attempt to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE: Lenox Title Trustee Services, LLC, c/o McMichael Taylor Gray, LLC, 3550 Engineering Drive, Suite 260, Peachtree Corners, GA 30092

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

Lenox Title Trustee Services, LLC, Substitute Trustee c/o Adrian G. Jacobs, Esq. McMichael Taylor Gray, LLC 3550 Engineering Drive, Suite 260 Peachtree Corners, GA 30092 Phone: 404.474.7149 Fax: 404.745.8121 MTG File No.: VA2023-00030

Run Dates: November 4th, 2024 November 11th, 2024

AD#87803

Trustee Sales: Fairfax Co.

TRUSTEE'S SALE 7904 INVERTON RD 303 ANNANDALE, VA 22003

In execution of the Deed of Trust in the original principal amount of \$247,200.00, dated March 6, 2006, and recorded in Deed Book 18269, Page 1829 and as Instrument Number 2006007677.005 in Fairfax County land records, the appointed Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction at the front of the Fairfax County Circuit Court (Fairfax County Judicial Center, 4110 Chain Bridge Road), at Fairfax, Virginia 22030 on December 09, 2024 at 2:30 pm, the property described in said deed of trust, located at the above address and more particularly described as follows:

APARTMENT NUMBERED THREE HUNDRED THREE (303), WING NUMBERED TWO (2), IN BUILDING NUMBER ONE (1), HERITAGE COURT, TOGETHER WITH THE UNDIVIDED INTEREST IN THE GENERAL COMMON ELEMENTS AND ALL OTHER RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES WHICH ATTACH TO SAID APARTMENT, AS DESCRIBED IN THAT CERTAIN IN THAT CERTAIN MASTER DEED WITH AN APARTMENT IDENTIFICATION PLAT ATTACHED, RECORDED IN DEED BOOK 3543 AT PAGE 375; AND AS FURTHER DESCRIBED IN THE FIRST AMENDMENT TO MASTER DEED, WITH AN APARTMENT IDENTIFICATION PLAT ATTACHED, RECORDED IN DEED BOOK 3560 AT PAGE 309, AND IN THE DEED OF MODIFICATION TO FIRST AMENDMENT TO MASTER DEED RECORDED IN DEED BOOK 3562 AT PAGE 316; AND AS FURTHER DESCRIBED IN THE SECOND AMENDMENT TO MASTER DEED WITH AN APARTMENT IDENTIFICATION PLAT ATTACHED, RECORDED IN DEED BOOK 3572 AT PAGE 201; AND AS FURTHER DESCRIBED IN THE THIRD AMENDMENT TO MASTER DEED, RECORDED IN DEED BOOK 3590 AT PAGE 688, ALL AMONG THE LAND RECORDS OF FAIRFAX COUNTY, VIRGINIA, AND ANY AND ALL AMENDMENTS THERETO, WHETHER NOW EXISTING OR HEREAFTER RECORDED, AS PERMITTED BY PARAGRAPH 25 OF THE SAID MASTER DEED.

The property and improvements will be sold in "as is" physical condition without warranty of any kind.

TERMS OF SALE: A non-refundable bidder's deposit of 10% of the sale price or 10% of the original principal amount of the subject Deed of Trust, whichever is lower, by cashier's or certified check required at time of sale except for the party secured by the Deed of Trust. Risk of loss on purchaser from date and time of auction. Balance of the purchase price must be paid by cashier's check within 15 days from sale date. Except for Virginia Grantor tax, all settlement costs and expenses are purchaser's responsibility. Taxes are pro-rated to the date of sale. Purchaser is responsible for obtaining possession of the property. If purchaser defaults, deposit may be forfeited and property resold at the risk and cost of the defaulting purchaser who shall be liable for any deficiency in the purchase price and all costs, expenses and attorney's fees of both sales. If Trustee does not convey title for any reason, purchaser's sole remedy is return of deposit without interest. This sale is subject to post-sale audit of the status of the loan secured by the Deed of Trust including but not limited to determining whether prior to sale a bankruptcy was filed, a forbearance, repayment or other agreement was entered into or the loan was reinstated or paid off; in any such event this sale shall be null and void and purchaser's sole remedy shall be return of deposit without interest. This communication is from a debt collector and is an attempt to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE: RAS Trustee Services, LLC, 101 North Lynnhaven Road, Suite 104, Virginia Beach, Virginia 23452

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

RAS Trustee Services, LLC, Substitute Trustee c/o Robertson, Anschutz, Schneid, Crane & Partners, PLLC 11350 McCormick Road, Executive Plaza 1, Suite 302 Hunt Valley, Maryland 21031 (844) 442-2150 (470) 321-7112

November 4th, 2024 November 11th, 2024

AD#87539

Trustee Sales: Prince William Co.

TRUSTEE'S SALE 8236 STODDARD RD MANASSAS, VA 20110

In execution of the Deed of Trust in the original principal amount of \$412,000.00, dated October 25, 2005, and recorded as Instrument Number 2005010370187027 in Prince William County land records, the appointed Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction in front of the building housing the Prince William County Circuit Court, 9311 Lee Avenue, Manassas, Virginia 20110 on December 17, 2024 at 2:45 pm, the property described in said deed of trust, located at the above address and more particularly described as follows:

LOT 97, SECTION 2, SUMNER LAKE, AS THE SAME APPEARS DULY DEDICATED, PLATTED AND RECORDED AS INSTRUMENT NO. 20010129009408 AMONG THE LAND RECORDS OF PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY, VIRGINIA.

The property and improvements will be sold in "as is" physical condition without warranty of any kind.

TERMS OF SALE: A non-refundable bidder's deposit of 10% of the sale price or 10% of the original principal amount of the subject Deed of Trust, whichever is lower, by cashier's or certified check required at time of sale except for the party secured by the Deed of Trust. Risk of loss on purchaser from date and time of auction. Balance of the purchase price must be paid by cashier's check within 15 days from sale date. Except for Virginia Grantor tax, all settlement costs and expenses are purchaser's responsibility. Taxes are pro-rated to the date of sale. Purchaser is responsible for obtaining possession of the property. If purchaser defaults, deposit may be forfeited and property resold at the risk and cost of the defaulting purchaser who shall be liable for any deficiency in the purchase price and all costs, expenses and attorney's fees of both sales. If Trustee does not convey title for any reason, purchaser's sole remedy is return of deposit without interest. This sale is subject to post-sale audit of the status of the loan secured by the Deed of Trust including but not limited to determining whether prior to sale a bankruptcy was filed, a forbearance, repayment or other agreement was entered into or the loan was reinstated or paid off; in any such event this sale shall be null and void and purchaser's sole remedy shall be return of deposit without interest. This communication is from a debt collector and is an attempt to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE: RAS Trustee Services, LLC, 101 North Lynnhaven Road, Suite 104, Virginia Beach, Virginia 23452

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

RAS Trustee Services, LLC, Substitute Trustee c/o Robertson, Anschutz, Schneid, Crane & Partners, PLLC 11350 McCormick Road, Executive Plaza 1, Suite 302 Hunt Valley, Maryland 21031 (844) 442-2150 (470) 321-7112

November 11th, 2024 November 18th, 2024

AD#87693

Trustee Sales: Virginia

TRUSTEE'S SALE 1015 Myrick St Fredericksburg, VA 22401

In execution of the Deed of Trust dated May 12, 2021 and recorded on May 24, 2021 in Instrument # 202101974 of the City of Fredericksburg land records, Trustee Services of Virginia, LLC, the appointed Substitute Trustee, will offer for sale at public auction at the front of the Courthouse for the City of Fredericksburg, Virginia, at 701 Princess Anne Street, Fredericksburg, Virginia 22401 on December 16, 2024 at 01:00 PM the property more particularly described in the aforementioned Deed of Trust, located at the property address listed below and briefly identified as follows:

All that certain lot or parcel of land situate in the County of Fredericksburg, State of Virginia, and being more particularly described as follows:

All that certain lot or parcel of land, together with all improvements thereon and all rights and appurtenances thereunto belonging, lying and being in the City of Fredericksburg, Virginia, known and designated as LOT 26-R, in Block 33, Mayfield Subdivision, as shown on a plat thereof made by Webb and Associates dated December 2, 2005, revised on May 1, 2006 and on May 16, 2006, and recorded in the Clerk's office of the Circuit Court of the City of Fredericksburg, Virginia, in Plat Book 14, Page 46.

BEING the same property which, by Deed dated August 6, 2020, and recorded on August 10, 2020 among the Land Records of the County of Fredericksburg, State of Virginia, in Deed Instrument No 202002200 was granted and conveyed by Linda V. Janney unto Leonard Rainer.

BEING the same property which, by Deed dated September 15, 2006, and recorded on October 3, 2006 among the Land Records of the County of Fredericksburg, State of Virginia, in Deed Instrument No 060003401 was granted and conveyed by John A. Janney and Linda V. Janney unto Linda V. Janney.

Tax No.: 7788-29-0463

Property address: 1015 Myrick St, Fredericksburg, VA 22401

The property will be sold "AS IS," WITHOUT REPRESENTATION OR WARRANTY OF ANY KIND AND SUBJECT TO conditions, covenants, restrictions, reservations, easements, rights of way, and all other matters of record taking priority over the Deed of Trust, if any.

Pursuant to Code of Virginia § 55.1-321(A2), if the property is being sold subject to another priority security instrument(s), purchaser must certify that purchaser shall pay off any priority security instrument(s) no later than 90 days from the date the trustee's deed conveying the property being sold is recorded in the land records.

TERMS OF SALE: A non-refundable bidder's deposit of \$22,500.00 or 10% of the sale price, whichever is less, by cashier's or certified check required at time of sale, except for the party secured by the Deed of Trust. Risk of loss is on the purchaser from date and time of auction. Balance of the purchase price must be paid by cashier's check within 14 days from sale date. Except for Virginia Grantor tax, all settlement costs and expenses are purchaser's responsibility. Taxes are pro-rated to the date of sale. Purchaser is responsible for obtaining possession of the property. If purchaser defaults, deposit may be forfeited and property resold at the risk and cost of the defaulting purchaser who shall be liable for any deficiency in the purchase price and all costs, expenses, and attorney's fees of both sales. If Trustee does not convey title for any reason, purchaser's sole remedy is return of deposit without interest. This sale is subject to post-sale audit of the status of the loan secured by the Deed of Trust including but not limited to determining whether prior to sale a forbearance, repayment, or other agreement was entered into, the loan was reinstated or paid off, or whether the property became subject to an automatic stay under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code prior to the sale; in any such event this sale shall be null and void and purchaser's sole remedy shall be return of deposit without interest. Pursuant to the Federal Fair Debt Collections Practices Act, this law firm is a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

(24-19900)

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

BROCK & SCOTT, PLLC (Attorney for TRUSTEE SERVICES OF VIRGINIA, LLC) 484 Viking Drive, Suite 203 Virginia Beach, VA 23452 (757) 213-2959

November 11th, 2024 November 18th, 2024

AD#87863

LET'S TALK SPORTS Follow us on Twitter @WashTimesSports The Washington Times

Legal Notices DC & Maryland 202-636-4953 Virginia 703-425-0903 The Washington Times

Trustee Sales: Virginia

TRUSTEE'S SALE
934 Churchill Dr
Fredericksburg, VA 22407

In execution of the Deed of Trust dated July 21, 2022 and recorded on September 6, 2022 in Instrument # 220018001 of Spotsylvania County land records, Trustee Services of Virginia, LLC, the appointed Substitute Trustee, will offer for sale at public auction at the front of the building housing the Spotsylvania County Circuit Court, Judicial Center, Circuit Court entrance, 9107 Judicial Center Lane, Spotsylvania, Virginia on December 18, 2024 at 01:00 PM the property more particularly described in the aforementioned Deed of Trust, located at the property address listed below and briefly identified as follows:

ALL THAT CERTAIN LOTS OR PARCELS OF LAND WITH ALL RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES APPURTENANT THERETO, LYING AND BEING IN COURTLAND MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT, SPOTSYLVANIA COUNTY, VIRGINIA:

SHOWN AS LOT 2, AS SHOWN ON PLAT ENTITLED "PLAT OF SUBDIVISION SECTION TWO-D WAVERLY VILLAGE," PREPARED BY SULLIVAN, DONAHOE AND INGALLS, DATED MARCH 1, 1998, REVISED DECEMBER 9, 2004, AND RECORDED IN THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF SPOTSYLVANIA COUNTY, VIRGINIA, AS INSTRUMENT NO. 200500038491.

BEING THE SAME PROPERTY CONVEYED BY DEED RECORDED IN INSTRUMENT NO. 150001123 OF THE SPOTSYLVANIA COUNTY, VIRGINIA RECORDS.

SUBJECT TO ALL EASEMENTS, COVENANTS, CONDITIONS, RESERVATIONS, LEASES AND RESTRICTIONS OF RECORD, ALL LEGAL HIGHWAYS, ALL RIGHTS OF WAY, ALL ZONING, BUILDING AND OTHER LAWS, ORDINANCES AND REGULATIONS, ALL RIGHTS OF TENANTS IN POSSESSION, AND ALL REAL ESTATE TAXES AND ASSESSMENTS NOT YET DUE AND PAYABLE.

Tax No.: 23D6-2

Property address: 934 Churchill Dr, Fredericksburg, VA 22407

The property will be sold "AS IS," WITHOUT REPRESENTATION OR WARRANTY OF ANY KIND AND SUBJECT TO conditions, covenants, restrictions, reservations, easements, rights of way, and all other matters of record taking priority over the Deed of Trust, if any.

Pursuant to Code of Virginia § 55.1-321(A2), if the property is being sold subject to another priority security instrument(s), purchaser must certify that purchaser shall pay off any priority security instrument(s) no later than 90 days from the date the trustee's deed conveying the property being sold is recorded in the land records.

TERMS OF SALE: A non-refundable bidder's deposit of \$10,000.00 or 10% of the sale price, whichever is less, by cashier's or certified check required at time of sale, except for the party secured by the Deed of Trust. Risk of loss is on the purchaser from date and time of auction. Balance of the purchase price must be paid by cashier's check within 14 days from sale date. Except for Virginia Grantor tax, all settlement costs and expenses are purchaser's responsibility. Taxes are pro-rated to the date of sale. Purchaser is responsible for obtaining possession of the property. If purchaser defaults, deposit may be forfeited and property resold at the risk and cost of the defaulting purchaser who shall be liable for any deficiency in the purchase price and all costs, expenses, and attorney's fees of both sales. If Trustee does not convey title for any reason, purchaser's sole remedy is return of deposit without interest. This sale is subject to post-sale audit of the status of the loan secured by the Deed of Trust including but not limited to determining whether prior to sale a forbearance, repayment, or other agreement was entered into, the loan was reinstated or paid off, or whether the property became subject to an automatic stay under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code prior to the sale; in any such event this sale shall be null and void and purchaser's sole remedy shall be return of deposit without interest. Pursuant to the Federal Fair Debt Collections Practices Act, this law firm is a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

(24-17446)

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

BROCK & SCOTT, PLLC
(Attorney for
TRUSTEE SERVICES OF VIRGINIA, LLC)
484 Viking Drive, Suite 203
Virginia Beach, VA 23452
(757) 213-2959

October 28th, 2024
November 4th, 2024
November 11th, 2024
November 18th, 2024

AD#87866

Auctions: DC

Public Auction

Notice is hereby given that on Monday, December 2, 2024 at or after 9:00 am a public lien sale will be held for the purpose of satisfying a landlord lien on the content(s) of storage, with the bidding to take place on LOCKERFOX.COM. Auction may be cancelled at any time. Payments will be accepted at the location in the forms of cash, cashier's check, and/or credit card. The tenant names and room numbers to be auctioned are:

U-Haul Moving & Storage of Forestville Rd
4014 Forestville Rd, District Heights MD 20747
Raymond Smith- H135, Tyajia Smith- H197, Alexis Diggs- H172, Glenn Francis- H310, Michael Whitley- H235, Tyler Herron- 1023, Lachon Green- J107, Taira Jackson- H240, Isaiah Edwards- H122, Tanyelle Savage- H101, Stephon Bland- H163, Laquasha Anderson- H280, Fantasia Dunkley- H134, Amelia Hodgester- H233, Taurice Brown- H110, Gwedyln White- H143, Kayla Caution- H150, David Tyer- H297, James Bryan- 1030, Curtis Williams- H139, Charlton Jullier- 1022, Keith Barby- H315, Yvonne Spence- H217, Delend Rhodes- 1132, Jennifer Gray- H133, Stephanie Capps- J132, Nicole Thomas- H157, Tyajia Smith- H317, Nadia Rose- H193, Darryl Mcculloch- 1145, Paula Holloman- 1100, Jacqueline Jeanette Dobie- 1121, Lloyd Scott- H223, Susan Lawrence- H173, Angel Harris- 1141, Shanika Thomas- H003, Alvin McLeod- H040
November 11, 2024
AD#88177

Auctions: Maryland

Self Storage Zone will sell at public auction under Maryland Lien Laws(18-504) for nonpayment of rent and fees for immediate removal Wednesday, November 15, 2024 @ 12:00 noon and on such succeeding days and times as may be necessary at storage auction website www.StorageTreasures.com the contents of the following self-storage units: 1048 Kyle Lee Banks, 1049 Kimberly Maria Mack, 2001 James Adam Fulton Jr. 3013 Antwon Richard Lee, 3144 Treshawn Woodward, 3299 Odelia Velence Halley. Self Storage Zone reserves the right to refuse any bid or cancel the auction for any reason.
November 11, 2024 AD#88521



Legal Notices

DC & Maryland Virginia
202-636-4953 703-425-0903
The Washington Times

Trustee Sales: Virginia

TRUSTEE'S SALE
74 Sanctuary Ln
Stafford, VA 22554

In execution of the Deed of Trust dated March 7, 2022 and recorded on March 8, 2022 in Instrument # 220005222 of Stafford County land records, Trustee Services of Virginia, LLC, the appointed Substitute Trustee, will offer for sale at public auction at the front of the Stafford County Circuit Courthouse, main entrance of the Judicial Center, 1300 Courthouse Road, Stafford, Virginia on December 18, 2024 at 10:00 AM the property more particularly described in the aforementioned Deed of Trust, located at the property address listed below and briefly identified as follows:

All that certain tract or parcel of land together will all rights and privileges thereto appurtenant, situate, lying and being in the Aquia Magisterial District, County of Stafford, Virginia, and more particularly described as LOT 118, SECTION 2, SEASONS LANDING, as shown on a Plat by Bagby, Caldwell and Associates, P.C., dated January 2007 and recorded at PM080000070 in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Stafford County, Virginia.

For informational purposes only: Property Address: 74 Sanctuary Lane, Stafford, VA 22554 Tax ID No.: 30NN-2-118

Being the same property conveyed to Jeffrey R. Williams and Tracey L. Williams, husband and wife, as tenants by the entirety with the full common law right of survivorship by deed from Stonehill Development Corporation, A Virginia Corporation dated 08/18/2011 and recorded with Stafford County Recording Office on 08/24/2011 as Instrument #110014346.

Tax No.: 30NN 2 118

Property address: 74 Sanctuary Ln, Stafford, VA 22554

The property will be sold "AS IS," WITHOUT REPRESENTATION OR WARRANTY OF ANY KIND AND SUBJECT TO conditions, covenants, restrictions, reservations, easements, rights of way, and all other matters of record taking priority over the Deed of Trust, if any.

Pursuant to Code of Virginia § 55.1-321(A2), if the property is being sold subject to another priority security instrument(s), purchaser must certify that purchaser shall pay off any priority security instrument(s) no later than 90 days from the date the trustee's deed conveying the property being sold is recorded in the land records.

TERMS OF SALE: A non-refundable bidder's deposit of \$60,000.00 or 10% of the sale price, whichever is less, by cashier's or certified check required at time of sale, except for the party secured by the Deed of Trust. Risk of loss is on the purchaser from date and time of auction. Balance of the purchase price must be paid by cashier's check within 14 days from sale date. Except for Virginia Grantor tax, all settlement costs and expenses are purchaser's responsibility. Taxes are pro-rated to the date of sale. Purchaser is responsible for obtaining possession of the property. If purchaser defaults, deposit may be forfeited and property resold at the risk and cost of the defaulting purchaser who shall be liable for any deficiency in the purchase price and all costs, expenses, and attorney's fees of both sales. If Trustee does not convey title for any reason, purchaser's sole remedy is return of deposit without interest. This sale is subject to post-sale audit of the status of the loan secured by the Deed of Trust including but not limited to determining whether prior to sale a forbearance, repayment, or other agreement was entered into, the loan was reinstated or paid off, or whether the property became subject to an automatic stay under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code prior to the sale; in any such event this sale shall be null and void and purchaser's sole remedy shall be return of deposit without interest. Pursuant to the Federal Fair Debt Collections Practices Act, this law firm is a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

(24-22495)

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

BROCK & SCOTT, PLLC
(Attorney for
TRUSTEE SERVICES OF VIRGINIA, LLC)
484 Viking Drive, Suite 203
Virginia Beach, VA 23452
(757) 213-2959

November 11th, 2024
November 18th, 2024

AD#87867

Auctions: Multi Locations

PUBLIC SALE NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that 71 pallets and 26 overflows containing miscellaneous household goods and furniture will be sold by lots. These are held for

Customer Name Address

Darden-Johnson, Jeanette, 11 Patoine Place, Old Orchard Beach, ME; Masiyandima, Mutsa Cecelia, 7131 Arlington Road, Apt. 408, BETHESDA, MD; Butler, Christopher, Columbia, SC; Altieri, Amanda, 85 Island Crest Cir, Memphis, TN; Al Saud, Abdulahziz,660 Chain Bridge RD, McLean, VA; Wright, John, 2333 Shore Sands Ct, Virginia Beach, VA; Gaidelis, Alan, 3926 NW 30th Ave, Bell, FL; King, Angela,1340 Destrier St., Ranson, WV; Stephen, Peter, 1115 12th NW Apt 702, Washington, DC; Burton, Deborah, 1 Dove Shell Lane, Vero Beach, FL; Gring, Kent, 989 Valley Road, Blue Bell, PA; Lomax, Derrick, 10412 Westridge Dr, Bowie, MD; Smiroldo, Franco, PO Box 1608, Bowie, MD; Ridge, Simon, 2700 Woodley Rd NW #203, Washington, DC; Knight, Jim, 2815 Bellevue Terrace NW, Washington, DC; Newsome, Theresa, 3036 Gratto Walk, Ellicott City, MD; Stith, Michelle, 1075 Shain Court, Great Falls, VA; Raetz, James, 2582 White Smith Rd., Siler City, NC; Kyner, Jennifer, jkyner@tiscali.co.uk, LONDON, UK; Layman, Don, 718 Parkway Terrace, Alexandria, VA; Clark, Shannon, 3045 Mornington Dr NW, Atlanta, GA; Auckland, Duncan, 207 Sommerset Bay Drive Apt 202, Glen Burnie, MD

by JK Moving Services and will be offered for sale by auction due to non-payment of rents and fees. Cash, Visa, MasterCard, and AMEX credit cards will be accepted. Auction will be held at JK Moving Services 44112 Mercure Circle, Sterling, VA 20166 on Saturday, November 16, 2024, at 9:00am. Items will be available for inspection at 8:30am prior to start of the auction. JK Moving Services Donna Fujiwara 703-996-1295 donna.fujiwara@jkmoving.com

October 28th, 2024
November 4th, and 11th, 2024

AD#88146

Trustee Sales: Virginia

TRUSTEE'S SALE
22207 FALLING TERRACE
AHSBURN, VA 20148

In execution of the Deed of Trust in the original principal amount of \$55,500.00, dated September 20, 2016, and recorded as Instrument Number 20160921-0062724 in Loudoun County land records, the appointed Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction at the main entrance of the courthouse for the Circuit Court of Loudoun County, 18 E Market St, Leesburg, VA 20178 on December 17, 2024 at 12:45PM, the property described in said deed of trust, located at the above address and more particularly described as follows:

THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED REAL PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE COUNTY OF LOUDOUN, STATE OF VIRGINIA:

LOT 34, STATION VIEW, AS THE SAME APPEARS DULY DEDICATED AND RECORDED AS INSTRUMENT NUMBER 20101008-0062899, WITH PLAT RECORDED AS INSTRUMENT NUMBER 20101008-0062900, AMONG THE LAND RECORDS OF LOUDOUN COUNTY, VIRGINIA.

The property and improvements will be sold in "as is" physical condition without warranty of any kind.

TERMS OF SALE: A non-refundable bidder's deposit of 10% of the sale price or 10% of the original principal amount of the subject Deed of Trust, whichever is lower, by cashier's or certified check required at time of sale except for the party secured by the Deed of Trust. Risk of loss on purchaser from date and time of auction. Balance of the purchase price must be paid by cashier's check within 15 days from sale date. Except for Virginia Grantor tax, all settlement costs and expenses are purchaser's responsibility. Taxes are pro-rated to the date of sale. Purchaser is responsible for obtaining possession of the property. If purchaser defaults, deposit may be forfeited and property resold at the risk and cost of the defaulting purchaser who shall be liable for any deficiency in the purchase price and all costs, expenses and attorney's fees of both sales. If Trustee does not convey title for any reason, purchaser's sole remedy is return of deposit without interest. This sale is subject to post-sale audit of the status of the loan secured by the Deed of Trust including but not limited to determining whether prior to sale a bankruptcy was filed, a forbearance, repayment or other agreement was entered into or the loan was reinstated or paid off; in any such event this sale shall be null and void and purchaser's sole remedy shall be return of deposit without interest. This communication is from a debt collector and is an attempt to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE: RAS Trustee Services, LLC, 101 North Lynnhaven Road, Suite 104, Virginia Beach, Virginia 23452

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

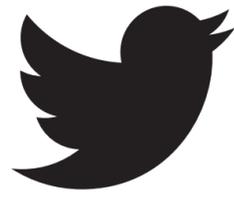
RAS Trustee Services, LLC, Substitute Trustee
c/o Robertson, Anschutz, Schneid, Crane & Partners, PLLC
11350 McCormick Road,
Executive Plaza I, Suite 302
Hunt Valley, Maryland 21031
(844) 442-2150
(470) 321-7112

November 11th, 2024
November 18th, 2024

AD#87677

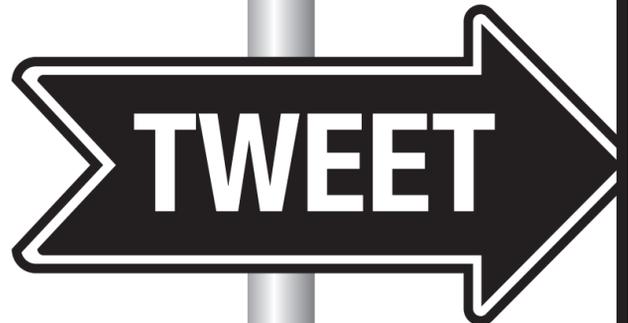
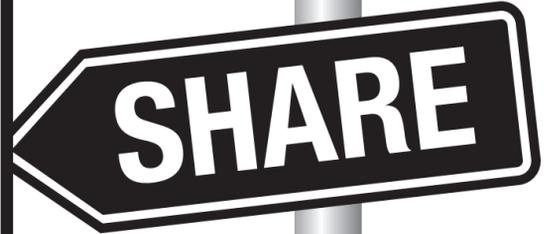


washingtontimes.com



JOIN THE CONVERSATION

@WashTimes



The Washington Times

3	8			6	2	9		
7		6	4					2
	9					1		3
	3				9	4		
	6		7	1	5		3	
		8	3				1	
9		1	2	3				4
6					1	8		7
		2						
						9	1	

JANRIC CLASSIC SUDOKU

Rating: Bronze

Fill in the blank cells using numbers 1 to 9. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and 3x3 block. Use logic and the process of elimination to solve the puzzle. The difficulty level ranges from Bronze (easiest) to Silver to Gold (hardest).

© 2023 by Janric Enterprises. Dist. by Creators Syndicate, Inc.

ANSWERS TO PREVIOUS PUZZLES:

7	6	8	3	2	1	4	5	9
2	4	5	8	6	9	1	3	7
9	3	1	4	5	7	8	6	2
4	7	2	1	8	5	6	9	3
1	5	3	9	7	6	2	4	8
8	9	6	2	4	3	7	1	5
3	2	4	5	1	8	9	7	6
5	1	7	6	9	2	3	8	4
6	8	9	7	3	4	5	2	1

S	C	A	T	H	E	S	I	N	G	S	T	O
S	W	O	R	E	A	T	A	G	A	T	H	A
F	A	S	T	A	N	D	F	U	R	I	O	U
O	P	T	I	C	S	P	E	E	R	W	T	A
S	H	O	R	E	S	O	W					
H	A	S	T	E	M	A	K	E	S	W	A	S
I	N	T	E	R	D	E	N	S	T	A	G	
R	O	O	S	S	I	D	O	E	A	N	G	
E	D	I	T	T	U	E	S	L	I	N	G	
R	E	C	K	L	E	S	S	A	B	A	N	D
T	O	P	S	T	I	N	T					
S	R	A	L	O	S	E	S	T	E	W	E	D
C	U	T	T	I	N	G	C	O	R	N	E	R
A	D	M	I	T	I	N	A	S	P	O	T	
R	E	S	E	A	T	S	A	S	S	E	T	S

JUMBLE/David L. Hoyt & Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

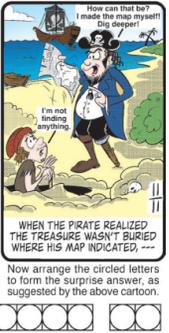
DVOIE

EHPES

LZIFEZ

ETGTNO

Print your answer here:



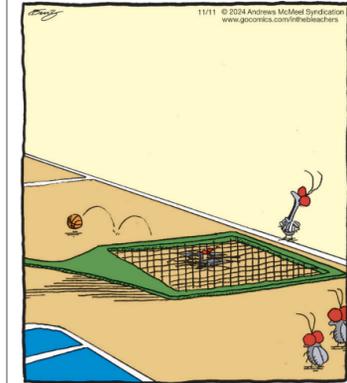
When the pirate realized the treasure wasn't buried where his map indicated...

RUBES/Leigh Rubin



Schrödinger's catsup

IN THE BLEACHERS/Steve Moore



"Flagrant foul!"

NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Coin Counting

ACROSS

- 1 Makes a sound of fright
- 6 Corrosive chemical
- 10 Oil cartel
- 14 Not shortened, as a film
- 15 "Look what I did!"
- 16 Christmas season
- 17 Purchase for postage
- 18 Merely
- 19 Money in Spain and France
- 20 Not quite a dozen Lincoln coins
- 22 Cotton swab brand
- 23 Gaffer's peg
- 24 Brief halts
- 26 Any monogram initial
- 30 Woman's small crown
- 32 Declare to be true
- 33 Heroic act
- 35 Check the fit of
- 39 Snake poison
- 41 Chimp or gorilla
- 42 Theater platform
- 43 Sports stadium
- 44 Bench or couch
- 46 Makes a mistake
- 47 Angry
- 49 Insect that stings
- 51 Parking lot spots
- 54 Hair stylist's goo
- 55 Difficult journey
- 56 30 cents in Roosevelt coins
- 63 Stand up
- 64 Totally spoil
- 65 Show to be true

DOWN

- 1 Blast of wind
- 2 Initial poker bet
- 3 Read rapidly
- 4 Gasoline dispenser
- 5 Tampa neighbor, for short
- 6 Make amends
- 7 "What more ___ say?"
- 8 Not doing anything
- 9 Local place for a
- 10 Single Washington coin
- 11 Sulks
- 12 Spookily strange
- 13 Hoofbeat sounds
- 21 Uncool person
- 25 ___ and crafts
- 26 Volcanic flow
- 27 At any time
- 28 Voicemail sound
- 29 Pair of Jefferson coins
- 30 Native American tent in Westerns
- 31 Notion
- 34 Toward sunrise
- 36 Knitter's material
- 37 Fairy tale monster
- 38 Home for baby birds
- 40 Female horse
- 45 "My country, 'tis of ___"
- 48 Houston baseball team
- 50 Veteran expert
- 51 Piece of bacon
- 52 ___ and joy (something treasured)
- 53 Greek fable guy
- 54 Bits of heredity
- 57 Immense
- 58 Make angry
- 59 Veteran's nation
- 60 Go to a new home
- 61 ___ so (nevertheless)
- 62 Drop in the mail

CREATORS SYNDICATE ©2024 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 11/11/24

MORE OF STAN'S CROSSWORDS! Play FREE from Stan's archives of Easy, Hard and Sunday puzzles at: tinyurl.com/stan-newman-crosswords

B.C./Mastroianni & Hart



LOLA/Todd Clark



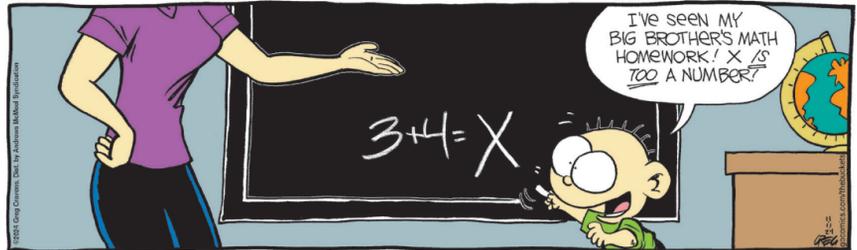
BOUND & GAGGED/Dana Summers



ADAM @ HOME/Rob Harrell



THE BUCKETS/Greg Cravens



ROSE IS ROSE/Pat Brady & Don Wimmer



DOGS OF C-KENNEL/Mick & Mason Mastroianni



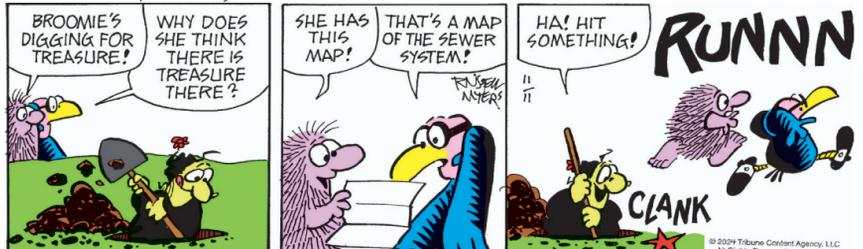
HERB & JAMAAL/Stephen Bentley



CARPE DIEM/Niklas Eriksson



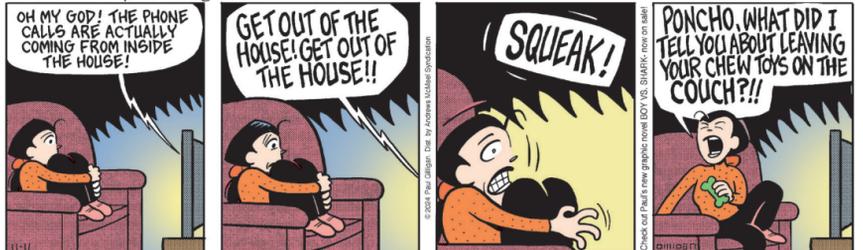
BROOM-HILDA/Russell Myers



DICK TRACY/Mike Curtis & Charles Ettinger



POOCH CAFE/Paul Gilligan



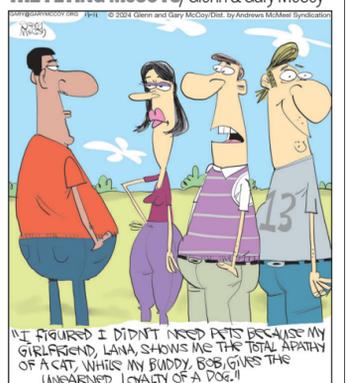
STRANGE BREW/John Deering



BOTTOM LINERS/Eric & Bill Teitelbaum



THE FLYING McCOYS/Glenn & Gary McCoy



PARDON MY PLANET/Vic Lee



BLISS/Harry Bliss



MOVIES

Grant weaponizes charm in 'Heretic'

Horror movie combines gore, high discourse on religion

By MARK KENNEDY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

'Heretic' opens with an unusual table setter: Two young missionaries from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints are discussing condoms and why some are labeled as large even though they're all pretty much a standard size. "What else do we believe because of marketing?" one asks the other.

That line will echo through the movie, a stimulating discussion of religion that emerges from a horror movie wrapper. Despite a second-half slide and feeling unbalanced, this is the rare movie that combines lots of squirting blood and elevated discussion of the ancient Egyptian god Horus.

Our two church members — played fiercely by Sophie Thatcher and Chloe East — are wandering around trying to covert souls when they knock on the door of a sweet-looking cottage. Its owner, Mr. Reed, offers a hearty "Good afternoon!" He welcomes them in, brings them drinks and promises a blueberry pie. He's also interested in learning more about the church. So far, so good.

Mr. Reed is, of course, if

you've seen the poster, the baddie and he's played by Hugh Grant, who doesn't go the snarling, dead-eyed Hannibal Lecter route in "Heretic." Mr. Grant is the slightly bumbling, bashful and self-mocking character we fell in love with in "Four Weddings and a Funeral," but with a smear of menace. He gradually reveals that he actually knows quite a bit about the Mormon religion — and all religions.

"It's good to be religious," he says jauntily and promises his wife will join them soon, a requirement for the church. Homey touches in his home include a framed "Bless This Mess" needlepoint on a wall, but there are also oddities, like his lights are on a timer and there's metal in the walls and ceilings.

Writer-directors Scott Beck and Bryan Wood — who also combined on "A Quiet Place" — have remarkably set us up for an unexpected theological debate here. Mr. Reed is not unlike an earnest professor of comparative religion set against two naive missionaries armed with talking points who are hiding their own doubts.

Mr. Reed knows exactly where the weak points are and thrusts in the philosophical knife. "How do you feel about



Sophie Thatcher (left) and Chloe East are two church members in "Heretic." They are trying to convert souls when they encounter Mr. Reed, Hugh Grant's villainous character.

awkward questions?" he asks before tackling the church's stance of polygamy. "Yeah, it's sketchy, for sure," Ms. East's Sister Paxton finally admits. Soon the discussion turns on which religions are marketed better. Mr. Reed is, after all, facing a pair of walking and talking advertisements for Mormonism.

So beautifully constructed and acted in the first half is "Heretic" that you won't really notice when it turns into a horror movie. You might be a step ahead of the missionaries, but not by much. Mr. Reed alternates between creepy and funny, well versed in Spider-Man and Voltaire, Radiohead and the Hollies, Wendy's and Taco Bell. Mr. Grant has gloriously weaponized his natural charm.

Mr. Reed has his own grand

theory about religion and you will learn it. And he may or may not have some creepy stuff in his basement. "It's all terrifying. It is scary. I'm scared," he says adorably, but he's referring to organized religions. You'll find him utterly terrifying, a fanatical heretic in sheep's clothing who can cutely mimic Jar Jar Binks from the Star Wars universe.

Mr. Beck and Mr. Wood take this fascinating premise as far as it can go before it becomes an airless stage play. By the halfway point, the audience who came for the horror — not the lectures on religious marketing — are baying for blood, and blood they will get. The plot by the end is a murky, muddled and disturbing mess, a combination of too many ideas and no clear ending.

MOVIES

Family tells ghost story in 'Piano Lesson'

By LINDSEY BAHR
ASSOCIATED PRESS

An heirloom piano takes on immense significance for one family in 1936 Pittsburgh in August Wilson's "The Piano Lesson."

Generational ties also permeate the film adaptation, in which Malcolm Washington follows in his father Denzel Washington's footsteps in helping to bring the entirety of "The Pittsburgh Cycle" — a series of 10 plays — to the screen.

Malcolm Washington did not start from scratch in his accomplished feature filmmaking debut. He enlisted much of the cast from the recent Broadway revival with Samuel L. Jackson (Doaker Charles); his brother, John David Washington (Boy Willie); Ray Fisher (Lymon); and Michael Potts (Whining Boy).

Berniece, played by Danielle Brooks in the play, is now beautifully portrayed by Danielle Deadwyler. With such rich material and a cast for whom it's second nature, it would be hard, one imagines, to go wrong. Mr.

Malcolm Washington brings Wilson play to the screen

Jackson's own history with the play goes back to its original run in 1987 when he was Boy Willie.

It's not the simplest thing to make a play feel cinematic, but Malcolm Washington was up to the task. His film opens up the world of the Charles family beyond the living room. In fact, this adaptation, which Mr. Washington co-wrote with "Mudbound" screenwriter Virgil Williams, goes beyond Wilson's text and shows us the past and the origins of the intricately engraved piano that's central to all the fuss. It even opens on a big, action-filled set piece in 1911, during which the piano is stolen from a white family's home.

Another fleshes out Doaker's monologue in which he explains to the uninitiated, Mr. Fisher's Lymon, and the audience, the tortured history of the thing. While it might have been nice to keep the camera on Mr. Jackson, such a great, grounding

presence throughout, the good news is that he really makes narration shine as well.

Wilson purists will certainly have opinions on these artistic choices, but those choices let the film breathe a bit, offering some respite from the living room with the looming piano. And most of the film stays right there, in 1936. Boy Willie and Lymon descend early one morning, uninvited, on the Pittsburgh home of Berniece and her uncle Doaker.

It's a family reunion with an agenda: They've driven a truck full of watermelons up north from Mississippi, and Willie, Berniece's younger brother, wants to sell the watermelons and then the piano. The dusty old instrument represents to him a chance to let the past go and start a future. With the money, he wants to buy the land that his enslaved ancestors worked. Berniece has other ideas about the piano, namely keeping it. It's a connection to

the past, not an anchor. Besides, it might be haunted.

Yes, "The Piano Lesson," now in theaters and streaming on Netflix on Nov. 22, isn't just a meditation on family history. It's also a literal ghost story, with creaks, spooks and shadows lurking when the piano is disturbed.

Ms. Deadwyler is electric as Berniece, who bears the brunt of the haunting, walking on eggshells in her life, trying to care for her young daughter and fend off passes from men who assume she can only be fulfilled with one at her side. Now she must deal with her somewhat manic brother who might, Doaker wisely reminds, actually, annoyingly, have a point. Perhaps the film academy will make up for their snub of her performance in "Till" with this turn.

Regardless of your familiarity with Wilson's Pittsburgh Cycle, "The Piano Lesson" is a worthwhile, captivating and moving watch full of charismatic performers. Talent isn't always genetic, but the Washington family is putting in the work to prove otherwise.

MOVIES

'Bird' fails to take flight

Gritty fairy tale feels inauthentic, incongruous

By JAKE COYLE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Is it too real for ya?" blares in the background of Andrea Arnold's latest film, "Bird," a 12-year-old Bailey (Nykiya Adams) rides with her shirtless, tattoo-covered dad, Bug (Barry Keoghan), on his electric scooter past scenes of poverty in working-class Kent.

The song's question — courtesy of the Irish post-punk band Fontaines D.C. — is an acute one for "Bird." Ms. Arnold's films ("American Honey," "Fish Tank") are rigorous in their gritty naturalism. Her fiction films — this is her first in eight years — tend toward bleak, hand-held verité in rough-and-tumble real-world locations. Her last film, "Cow," documented a mother cow separated from her calf on a dairy farm.

Ms. Arnold specializes in capturing souls, human and otherwise, in soulless environments. A dream of something more is tantalizing just out of

reach. In "American Honey," peace comes to Star (Sasha Lane) only when she submerges underwater.

In "Bird," though, this sense of otherworldly possibility is made flesh, or at least feathery. After a confusing night, Bailey awakens in a field where she encounters a strange figure in a skirt (Franz Rogowski) who arrives, like Mary Poppins, with a gust of wind. His name, he says, is Bird. He has a soft sweetness that doesn't otherwise exist in Bailey's hardscrabble and chaotic life.

She's skeptical of him at first, but he keeps lurking about, hovering gull-like on rooftops. He cranes his neck now and again like he's watching out for Bailey. And he does watch out for her, helping Bailey through a hard coming of age: the abusive boyfriend (James Nelson-Joyce) of her mother (Jasmine Jobson); her half brother (Jason Buda)

slipping into vigilante violence; her father marrying a new girlfriend.

The introduction of surrealism has the ironic effect of breaking the spell that has marked Ms. Arnold's best films. "Bird," which is in theaters, is, like the writer-director's vivid previous work, a movie only she could make. Ms. Arnold has described it as the hardest thing she's ever created, and it's easy to applaud her for grasping at something in "Bird" that ultimately is just out of reach.

A resolutely realistic filmmaker turning to magical realism has the uncomfortable effect of making the whole movie, not just the Rogowski bits, feel inauthentic. Instead of being "too real for ya," "Bird," with its in-your-face poverty and narrative extremes, never feels particularly real at all.

The most incongruous parts of "Bird," though, might not be

the mysterious avian friend. (Mr. Rogowski, a compelling performer, only ever feels half in the movie, as if "Bird" can't quite commit to him being there, either.)

Mr. Keoghan is a reliably arresting actor who here feels out of place. He doesn't seem even vaguely fatherly, and while that might be part of the point, too many other things about Bug feel more performative than genuine. There's his scheme to use hallucinogenic slime from a toad to pay for his wedding, for starters. Add in some karaoke scenes and the sensation creeps in that "Bird" is being less compelled by its own story than it is by a pursuit of Ms. Arnold's previous style.

"Bird" may go down as a rare miss for Ms. Arnold, but you can still see the keenness of her eye and the nimbleness of her camera, with her regular cinematographer Robbie Ryan. And that's true never so much as when the camera is on Nykiya Adams, whose melancholy eyes say more than all the theatrics around her.

Wife tired of being the only one to make plans

DEAR ABBY: I have been married for 17 years to a good man with many great attributes. However, our relationship lacks connection. Every effort at emotional connection is initiated by me (like planning date nights or going out for a walk to have a conversation). I have told him many times I need him to make an effort to initiate. He always agrees, but never follows through.

I have now stopped planning date nights and told him that we won't be going on a date unless he schedules and plans it. (I do not require anything elaborate — a walk or a simple coffee would suffice.) That was two months ago, and he has made zero effort.

I am lonely and at a loss. What should I do? I have clearly communicated my needs and what I expect from him, and he doesn't seem to care, so I'm not sure where to go from here. — LONELY IN MINNESOTA

DEAR LONELY: Has it not occurred to you that your husband of 17 years may not have the ability or experience to plan an outing? Assuming the two of you enjoy those walks and dates, and you want to stay married to him, resume taking the initiative and planning your personal time together and show him how it's done. It may not be romantic, but I have heard of men who have far worse flaws.

DEAR ABBY: Do you think it's unreasonable to ask an acquaintance/neighbor to send a quick text before dropping by? This neighbor lives within the same development I do. She is friendly

enough, and we occasionally walk our dogs together, but she has a habit of coming by unannounced. I was out one afternoon and noticed later while viewing my security camera that she had come by and brought with her another woman and the woman's dog. I texted her and let her know that I saw that she had stopped by, and, in the future, I'd prefer she texted me before stopping over. Now she is offended and says she will "never stop over again."

I saw her walk by my house recently and came out to speak to her. When I tried to talk to her, she held up her hand and said, "Don't even speak to me!" I think this is childish and drama-filled. What do you think? — GROWN-UP IN OHIO

DEAR GROWN-UP: I agree with you. The woman overreacted to your text. This is one of the reasons I believe talking on the phone or face-to-face is a better way to communicate because there's less chance of someone misconstruing a terse message and taking offense. As to her directive that you should not speak to her, take her up on it. Dropping in on someone with no warning is inconsiderate, bordering on rude.

DEAR VETERANS: For your service to our nation, I salute you. My thanks to each of you on this Veterans Day. You personify patriotism, self-sacrifice and dedication to our country. I would also like to recognize your families for the sacrifices they, too, have made while you were serving your country. — LOVE, ABBY

ANDREWS MCMEEL SYNDICATION

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Nov. 11). The journey is entirely yours to chart. Don't be in a rush to fill in the blanks because when you leave space, extraordinary gifts fall into them. More highlights: Improved fitness with cutting-edge regime. Your excellent taste and stellar powers of discernment lead to a professional gain and later a windfall. A shared sense of humor will be a gateway to many social connections. Aries and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 1, 18, 42, 29 and 11.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). While you love a challenge and appreciate good teaching, deadlines and the like, nothing motivates you quite as much as the prospect of getting attention from someone you admire. For this, you will learn quick.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). One versatile friend will help you in multiple ways — an astonishment, really, when you consider the range of talents on this person. And your sweet compliments will endear you to this person so you'll continue to be a recipient of their help.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). A project is coming along, though very slowly. Things are working, though slowly. Be patient. Changing tactics will only set you back. Stick to the plan a little longer. Momentum takes time to build.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Your emotions trend in a psychic direction today. Listen carefully to the quiet signals your intuition sends through your body — these will guide you as you move forward.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Be mindful of who you choose as both business and personal allies. You won't need to test anyone's loyalty. Your sharp instincts and street smarts are enough to know who's a good match for you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You take the art of

ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
DEAR ABBY

HOLIDAY MATHS
HOROSCOPE

enough, and we occasionally walk our dogs together, but she has a habit of coming by unannounced.

I was out one afternoon and noticed later while viewing my security camera that she had come by and brought with her another woman and the woman's dog. I texted her and let her know that I saw that she had stopped by, and, in the future, I'd prefer she texted me before stopping over. Now she is offended and says she will "never stop over again."

I saw her walk by my house recently and came out to speak to her. When I tried to talk to her, she held up her hand and said, "Don't even speak to me!" I think this is childish and drama-filled. What do you think? — GROWN-UP IN OHIO

DEAR GROWN-UP: I agree with you. The woman overreacted to your text.

This is one of the reasons I believe talking on the phone or face-to-face is a better way to communicate because there's less chance of someone misconstruing a terse message and taking offense. As to her directive that you should not speak to her, take her up on it. Dropping in on someone with no warning is inconsiderate, bordering on rude.

DEAR VETERANS: For your service to our nation, I salute you. My thanks to each of you on this Veterans Day. You personify patriotism, self-sacrifice and dedication to our country. I would also like to recognize your families for the sacrifices they, too, have made while you were serving your country. — LOVE, ABBY

ANDREWS MCMEEL SYNDICATION

conversation seriously. It is, after all, an opportunity to make an impression or even a deal. It can also be the building of ideas, the start of a venture or a major change. Your careful choosing of topics will be key.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You sense the exciting possibilities ahead and this inspires you to make the first move — letting go of the past. Allow yourself to follow the trends, embrace forward thinking and welcome new experiences.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Just when you think you know yourself, you will be faced with the realization that you only know a small part of your own conscious mind. Your subconscious is vast, powerful and mysterious, if not downright sneaky. Fortune favors your dig for a deeper understanding.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You've mapped out your direction, but at best that's an estimation. Until you embark, it's impossible to really know the lay of the land. Your instincts are powerful and ready, and luck will smile on your courage to explore.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). A deeper truth lies just beneath the surface of a conversation or encounter. Listen closely — there's more to the story than you've been told. Serendipity will follow your pursuit of hidden knowledge.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Wind blows, water rashes, sand shifts — you expect it. But when the ground moves, it's a surprise. Change is inevitable. The stability you seek will come from flexibility, not rigidity. Blessed be the movers.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). While romance and friendship are beautiful energies to have, there are deeper forces at work in the world today that can only be accessed through profound compassion, selfless sacrifice and spiritual connection.

CREATORS.COM

RACING

Hall of Fame NASCAR driver Allison dead at 86

Bobby Allison, founder of racing's "Alabama Gang" and a NASCAR Hall of Famer, died Saturday. He was 86.

NASCAR released a statement from Allison's family that said he died at home in Mooresville, North Carolina. A cause of death wasn't given, but Allison had been in declining health for years.

Allison is fourth on NASCAR's Cup Series victory list, trailing only fellow Hall of Famers Richard Petty (200), David Pearson (105) and Jeff Gordon (93).

Allison was inducted into NASCAR's second Hall of Fame class, in 2011. He was the 1983 NASCAR champion, finished second in the series title race five times, and a three-time winner of the Daytona 500.

He helped put NASCAR on the map with more than his driving. His infamous fight with Cale Yarborough in the closing laps of the 1979 Daytona 500 served as one of the sport's defining moments.

Born in Miami in 1937, Allison started searching for more racing opportunities outside Florida. He landed in central Alabama, where he found a number of small, dirt tracks.

He returned to Florida to get brother Donnie and close friend Red Farmer. They set up shop in Hueytown, Alabama, and dominated regional races throughout the 1960s and early 1970s. They were later joined in the Alabama Gang by Jimmy Mears, Neil Bonnett and Bonnett and Allison's sons Davey and Clifford.

GOLF

Eckroat scores his 2nd PGA Tour title with win in Mexico

LOS CABOS, MEXICO | Austin Eckroat won the World Wide Technology Championship on Sunday for his second PGA Tour title of the year, shooting a 9-under 63 for a one-stroke victory over Justin Lower and Carson Young.

Playing in the group ahead of Lower and Young, Eckroat birdied the par-4 17th to open a three-stroke lead over Young, then finished with a bogey on the par-5 18th at Tiger Woods-designed El Cardonal at Diamante.

Eckroat locked up spot in the top 50 in the FedExCup Fall standings.

"I think it kind of validates the season that I had, just a great way to cap off and end the year," Eckroat said.

Lower closed with an eagle for a 65. "I played well," Lower said. "I said yesterday I had to shoot probably somewhere between 5 and 9 again just to have a chance. Shot 7 and came up one short."

Eckroat finished at 24-under 264. The 25-year-old former Oklahoma State player won the Cognizant Classic in March at PGA National for his first PGA Tour title.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Oregon notches fourth straight week at No. 1, Ohio State No. 2

Oregon was the No. 1 team in The Associated Press Top 25 college football poll for the fourth straight week Sunday as Penn State and Indiana climbed into the top five, Georgia and Miami dropped out of the top 10, and losses by four other ranked teams shuffled the rankings with a month left in the regular season.

No team this season has held the top spot for more consecutive weeks than Oregon, which pulled away from Maryland to improve to 10-0 over the weekend and is a unanimous No. 1 for the second straight week.

Ohio State moved up one spot to No. 2 and Texas got a two-rung bump to No. 3. Penn State was No. 4, one point ahead of No. 5 Indiana with Tennessee just three points behind at No. 6. Following Tennessee in the top 10 were BYU, Notre Dame, Alabama and Mississippi.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Maryland women down Duke in rivalry renewal

COLLEGE PARK | Kaylene Smikle scored 23 points, Shyanne Sellers added 17 and No. 18 Maryland defeated No. 11 Duke 85-80 on Sunday.

This was the Terps' first matchup against the Blue Devils since they defeated Duke, 65-55, in the NCAA Sweet 16 on March 28, 2015.

Christina Dalce had 12 and 14 rebounds before fouling out, and Bri McDaniel scored 15 points off the bench for Maryland.

Maryland (3-0) scored the first nine points and led throughout. Each time Duke (2-1) got within three or four points the Terrapins responded with a small run of their own.

FROM WIRE DISPATCHES AND STAFF REPORTS.

TENNIS

American Fritz frustrates racket-smashing Medvedev

By Andrew Dampf

ASSOCIATED PRESS

TURIN, ITALY | U.S. Open finalist Taylor Fritz frustrated Daniil Medvedev to the point that the Russian smashed his racket and was docked a point in a 6-4, 6-3 victory for the American in the opening match of the ATP Finals on Sunday.

Medvedev received two code violations from the chair umpire for his behavior.

"I get angry, frustrated. This time completely with myself, not with anyone. Just with myself," Medvedev said.

Later, top-ranked Jannik Sinner delighted his home fans with a 6-3, 6-4 win over finals debutant Alex de Minaur.

The other group starts play on Monday with Carlos Alcaraz facing Casper Ruud and Alexander Zverev meeting Andrey Rublev.

The top two finishers from each round-robin group advance to the semifinals.

The first set had been virtually dead even until the final game when Medvedev hit three double-faults to hand the set to Fritz.

Medvedev then went over to his bench in a fit of rage.

Medvedev first slammed his racket against the bench, which resulted in a slight dent. Then he banged the racket again on the hard court and mangled the



"I get angry, frustrated. This time completely with myself, not with anyone. Just with myself," Daniil Medvedev of Russia said. He smashed his racket twice during his match.

frame into a twisty mess — prompting him to toss it behind him.

"I have this every day, day in, day out, since like two, three years. Every practice is a struggle. Every match is a struggle," Medvedev said. "Now I feel zero pleasure of being on the court."

Midway through the second set, Medvedev was docked a point after he was broken and lost his cool again.

Medvedev then acted as if he was

going to return serve with his racket facing the wrong way — he held it with the butt of the racket and the grip facing Fritz. That drew whistles from the crowd and Medvedev changed the racket position just before Fritz served.

"I was like, 'Whatever, I lost the match. I don't care,'" Medvedev said.

Fritz wasn't bothered by Medvedev's behavior.

"I was just laughing. I think he's really

NFL

From page B10

But the mistakes piled up.

Zaccheaus muffed another punt in the second quarter, but he couldn't fall on this one. Pittsburgh's Ben Skowronek recovered the ball at Washington's 14-yard line to set the Steelers up for their own short touchdown drive.

"Clear the mechanism," Commanders coach Dan Quinn said of his message to Zaccheaus after the muffs. "He works really hard at this and we all have a lot of confidence in him."

Zaccheaus wasn't benched, but he did not field another punt the rest of the game. Instead, he opted to let the punts sail harmlessly over his head.

Most of Sunday's game was a back-and-forth battle between two high-level quarterbacks. Commanders rookie Jayden Daniels completed 17 of his 34 pass attempts for 202 yards, including 13 yards on a handful of chunk plays to wide receiver Terry McLaurin.

His performance was more impressive

than the stat line would indicate, but a handful of near-misses with his receivers weighed down the offense.

On the other sideline, Steelers quarterback Russell Wilson kept pace. He had an identical 50% completion percentage, posting 195 passing yards and three touchdowns with one interception.

Pittsburgh overcame their mistakes, though.

Wilson's interception, his first of the season, led to a punt on Washington's next possession.

A goal-line fumble by running back Jaylen Warren wasn't a backbreaker either, as the Steelers defense forced another punt to give the offense another chance.

Wilson and the Steelers stormed back with a six-play, 46-yard scoring drive to gain a one-point lead with just over two minutes remaining in the game. The possession culminated in a 32-yard touchdown reception by receiver Mike Williams in his Steelers debut.

Cornerback Benjamin St-Juste said that any blame for that touchdown fell on him; he failed to keep up with Williams

down the field.

"I just played a fake and came back down to play other routes," he said. "Sometimes I get caught up in trying to make the play that I try to guard everything. In those situations, you got to pick and choose the right option."

The Commanders had a shot to take the lead on their final drive, but they needed a fourth-down conversion to keep the dream alive.

After evading pressure on the fourth-and-nine play, Daniels found Ertz with a low throw in the middle of the field. The veteran tight end was touched down inches short of the first-down marker.

Quinn's defense had one more chance to make a stand. With all three timeouts in their pocket, the Commanders just had to stop the Steelers from gaining a first down to give their offense a chance.

The defense held up on the first three plays, as Steelers running back Najee Harris gained just nine yards on three carries. Pittsburgh kept its offense on the field on fourth down, but Quinn and the defense knew Wilson wouldn't snap

LOVERRO

From page B10

the ball over the last few weeks. We knew we had to stand up and make some plays. It played out probably like I thought in terms of how they would go attack but the missed opportunities on this sting the most."

It may not be a fair measurement, though. Washington was missing more than opportunities. They were missing two key players that certainly could have had an impact on the game.

Running back Brian Robinson Jr. and his 4.6 yards per carry were missing for

the second straight week because of a hamstring injury. I don't think it's a coincidence that he was out for two of the three Commanders' losses (he missed the 30-23 loss to the Baltimore Ravens last month due to a knee injury).

"He is certainly a factor, the size and what he can bring downhill," Quinn said.

Washington was also missing their new star cornerback, Marshon Lattimore, who arrived last week from New Orleans in a trade with his injured hamstring and was ruled out for the Steelers game.

Let me offer this quote — from me: "With Wilson's two touchdown passes

to George Pickens and the go-ahead score with less than three minutes remaining to Mike Williams, I think it is safe to say that Lattimore, one of the premiere cornerbacks in the league, is certainly a factor."

Two hamstrings — almost 35 inches.

Was that the measure of difference? This was one week where Daniels had no prayers to offer, no Hail Mary tosses, because these are the Steelers and they measure differently than the Chicago Bears.

He completed 17 of 34 passes for 202 yards and again, no interceptions. He was let down by several drops and also

funny, to be honest," Fritz said. "Even when he's not playing me, he always cracks me up."

Fritz won long and memorable rallies at the start of each set, one that included 26 shots and another that lasted 30.

"It was huge," Fritz said. "I kind of just fought through. ... I thought I did a solid job showing him that I wasn't going to give him a lot of free points."

It was points like those that left Medvedev demoralized.

"Literally everyone can stay in the rally with me right now," Medvedev said.

In September at the U.S. Open, Fritz became the first American man to reach a Grand Slam final in 15 years but he lost the championship match to top-ranked Jannik Sinner.

The Californian is appearing at the season-ending event for the year's top eight players for the second time. Two years ago, Fritz beat Rafael Nadal in his opening match and lost to Novak Djokovic in the semifinals.

Fritz will get a rematch with Sinner later in the week. Djokovic withdrew.

Numerous spectators were dressed in orange or wore carrot costumes in honor of Sinner's symbol vegetable — and his hair color.

Sinner, who lost the final to Djokovic last year, showed no signs of nerves when he opened with an ace on the first point of the match and promptly held at love.

the football.

The veteran signal-caller would use a hard count in an attempt to draw the defense offside before sending the punt team into the field.

Newton, the rookie defender from Illinois, jumped into the neutral zone anyway. The penalty gave the Steelers a game-sealing first down.

"It was a hard mistake, it was one to learn from," Quinn said. "As it goes, those are hard ones."

As he spoke to the media after the game, Newton received countless words of encouragement and high-fives from his teammates.

"That's what everybody's going to see, just that one big play, but it's not all on him," Daniels said. "We're all together, we got his back no matter what."

Newton's mistake was Washington's last on Sunday, but it wasn't the only one.

"The little things always add up," Daniels said. "Everybody sees just the one big play, but it's the little things that always add up to the game."

MLB

From page B10

Arizona made its move up the standings with a combination of shrewd trades, out-of-the-box signings and quality draft picks. The D-backs have long occupied a sort of middle ground in baseball's marketplace where they are able to pursue free agents, but can't get reckless.

General manager Mike Hazen picked up ace Zac Gallen in a 2019 trade with the Miami Marlins. He signed right-hander Merrill Kelly after he had a few good seasons pitching in South Korea. And then the farm system developed several quality players, including 2023 NL Rookie of the Year Corbin Carroll, All-Star shortstop Geraldo Perdomo and starting pitchers Brandon Pfaadt and Ryne Nelson.

It's not that every move worked out — the D-backs blew \$85 million on a five-year contract for left-hander Madison Bumgarner — but there were more hits than misses.

The Orioles' rebuild was more like the D-backs. General manager Mike Elias built around young players like 2023 AL Rookie of the Year Gunnar Henderson, catcher Adley Rutschman and slugger Anthony Santander, supplementing with a few free agents.

Now Baltimore looks like it'll be a factor in the American League for the next decade. But Elias admits the rebuild was tough.

"Even if you know it's moving the right direction long term, it's really hard on the players and coaching staff in the dugout those first few years when the immediate returns aren't there," Elias said. "When you're spending all day preparing

for a game, and way more often than not you're losing that game, you feel like a failure, even if things are moving in the right direction."

The White Sox could be following a similar path. They've already made a change in the dugout, hiring 42-year-old Will Venable to replace Pedro Grifol, who was fired in August. Grady Sizemore served as interim manager.

Chicago's obviously a little talent-starved on its big-league roster, but the minor league system is in much better shape. The team has several highly regarded prospects, including left-handed pitchers Noah Schultz and Hagen Smith, along with shortstop Colson Montgomery.

The franchise's Double-A team in Birmingham won its first Southern League championship since 2013. The hope is some of those players will percolate into

the big leagues soon.

Chicago also has a couple valuable big-league assets that could be moved in trades, including outfielder Luis Robert Jr. and right-hander Garrett Crochet, though Getz said he's comfortable with keeping them if no deals materialize.

Even if things look bad right now, the White Sox are bullish about the next few years.

Judging from baseball's recent past, that's a realistic feeling.

"It's about rounding out our roster, balancing it with offensive players to add to our pitching, and you go from there," Getz said. "You put together the best roster you can, compete on a regular basis, and before you know it, you've won eight out of 10 or 18 out of 20."

"It happens organically. But it starts with accumulating talent in your organization."

NASCAR

From page B10

playoffs, and we're happy. If we're going to race somebody, I'm happy it was him for the championship, and happy to be 1-2 for Roger, three in a row for Roger, super amazing, and Ford."

Penske and Ford have won three consecutive Cup Series championships. Logano won in 2022 and Blaney won last year.

"One-two for Team Penske, three

championships in a row, can't be more proud of this team," Logano said. "I don't know if I'm the best driver but I've got the best team. And together, we're very well-rounded and can show up when it matters the most."

The finale was winner-take-all to the highest finisher between Logano, Blaney, William Byron in a Chevrolet for Hendrick Motorsports and Tyler Reddick of the 23XI Racing team owned by NBA Hall of Famer Michael Jordan and three-time Daytona 500 winner Denny Hamlin. Byron finished third in the race and

Reddick was sixth. It was Byron's second consecutive appearance in the finale, first for Reddick.

"Makes you hungrier, but also just more experience in what it takes," said Byron, the Daytona 500 winner. "I feel like this style of track has been tough on us, and we made a lot of strides this year, but still more to go. If we can just kind of inch up on this style of track ... we can put it all together."

Reddick, who had been subdued all week compared to his fellow title contenders, didn't lead a lap and had Jordan pacing

behind the pit wall much of the race.

"Michael was just proud of the effort of our team all year long," Reddick said. "Put up a good fight. We didn't make any mistakes that took ourselves out of it."

The four title contenders finished in the top-six, with Reddick behind Kyle Larson of Hendrick and Christopher Bell, who led a race-high 143 laps after he was disqualified from the finale last week at Martinsville for a safety violation. Byron took his spot instead, and Bell insisted he had been cheated out of the chance to race for the title.

COMMANDERS

Costly blunders, stinging loss

Commanders' mistakes add to pain of defeat in yardstick game

By LIAM GRIFFIN
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Returner Olamide Zaccheaus muffed two punts. Tight end Zach Ertz ran a route a few critical inches short on a crucial fourth down. Defensive tackle Johnny Newton jumped offsides on a final fourth down to seal the game.

The little mistakes added up on Sunday to doom the Commanders in their 28-27 loss to the Pittsburgh Steelers at Northwest Stadium.

The Commanders (7-3) expected a tough matchup heading into the bout between the two division-leading squads. They knew the stands would be full of Pittsburgh's Terrible Towels and the margins for victory would be excruciatingly slim.

Washington fell just short.

The home locker room was uncharacteristically silent after the loss, a far cry from the jubilation it felt two weeks ago when the Commanders beat the Chicago Bears on a last-second Hail Mary.

Players were unanimous about the takeaway on Sunday: This one stings.

"This should hurt," said guard Sam Cosmi, who addressed the team after the game. "This should hurt your core. Winning is the ultimate goal and I know from the past that this means a lot, not only to me but to everybody."

The miscues started early and became more damaging as the game progressed. It started with a muffed punt from Zaccheaus in the first quarter, who quickly recovered the loose ball without any major issues.

Pittsburgh (7-2) even responded with their own special teams mistake later in the first quarter. The Steelers attempted a fake punt from their own 15-yard line, but the surprise pass from safety Miles Killebrew ricocheted off the hands of cornerback James Pierre and fell to the ground.

The Commanders capitalized, as halfback Austin Ekeler rushed for a 1-yard touchdown three plays later.

» see NFL | B9



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Commanders quarterback Jayden Daniels completed 17 of 34 pass attempts for 202 yards against the Steelers on Sunday. Accumulated mistakes led to a 28-27 loss.

Quinn touts lessons learned

As Washington Commanders rookie quarterback Jayden Daniels was trying to lead his team in a comeback in the final minutes against the visiting Pittsburgh Steelers, the scene inside Northwest Stadium was a sea of towels. Gold "Terrible Towels."

Daniels came up one yard short on a fourth-down pass to Zach Ertz to keep the drive going. Granted it was a disputed one yard, but there was no outrage from the Washington bench as the seconds ticked down. One yard to stay alive, lost.

Then, in their desperation of trying to stop the Steelers on fourth down and one with a minute left, Commanders rookie defensive tackle Johnny

Newton obliged Pittsburgh quarterback Russell Wilson by lining up in the neutral zone for the penalty Wilson was hoping for. One yard, lost.

Game over — Pittsburgh 28, Washington 27. One point, lost.

Was that the measure of difference between where the Steelers are and where the Commanders want to be?

Is coach Dan Quinn's team that close to the identity of their opponent, an identity built over the last 50 years of winning? One yard? One point?

"We really thought this would be a

hard-fought game and it was just what we expected," Quinn told reporters after the game. Everyone expected that from the Steelers. It has been their identity since the days of Jack Lambert and Terry Bradshaw.

Washington? They have been trying to purge the toxic identity of this franchise and have admirably done so in the moment, at least, in a short amount of time — a 7-3 record after Sunday's loss and a culture being developed on the run.

So was this a measure of the 2024 Commanders and was their goal on the other side of the ball facing

them?

"I would hope that the missed opportunities are the lessons to apply," Quinn said. "It was a little bit uncharacteristic, a few drops, maybe a few plays that weren't quite like us. I love that we were in this kind of fight. These are the kind that you need to build resilience and some resolve, establishing that kind of toughness and identity that we want to be about."

"As far as a measurement, I knew this was going to be a tough game," he said. "They were coming off their bye, they played well, they made some changes with Russ at quarterback, they've really been effective running

» see LOVERRO | B9



THOM LOVERRO



ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Texas Rangers are one example of teams claiming the World Series title after investing heavily in top players to bolster their roster. Two seasons prior to their 2023 World Series victory, the Rangers lost 102 games. They lost 94 games the next season.

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

Baseball's cellar-dwellers have models to follow on path back to respectability

By DAVID BRANDT
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN ANTONIO | Rock bottom proved to be even rockier than the Chicago White Sox ever dreamed.

Now second-year general manager Chris Getz has the unenviable task of pulling the South Side out of the baseball abyss following a 121-loss season that was the worst in modern MLB history.

Recent history shows that the massive rebuild won't be easy, but it can be done. Fairly quickly, in fact.

"One of the things I learned is that we weren't as far off as it felt at times," said Texas Rangers GM Chris Young, whose team won the World Series in 2023 after

losing 102 games two seasons prior.

"We had the 102-loss season, followed by a 94-loss season, but there were some things just beneath the surface that indicated it could turn quickly," Young said. "And it did."

The Rangers, Baltimore Orioles and Arizona Diamondbacks are among the franchises that the White Sox can use as examples for how to improve in a hurry. The Orioles and D-backs both lost 110 games in 2021.

Fast forward to 2023 and the Orioles won 101 regular season games while the Diamondbacks and Rangers both made a surprise run to the World Series, which Texas won in five games. All three teams are still in good long-term shape.

Even more recently, the Royals made the playoffs this season after losing 106 games in 2023.

"You look at different blueprints for teams that have gone through similar situations, and how they've gone about it," Getz said on Tuesday at Major League Baseball's GM meetings. "These things can change quickly."

Texas probably had the easiest solution to bouncing back from triple-digit losses — spending lots of cash. The Rangers hit the free agent market hard after their dismal 2021, committing \$500 million to land All-Star infielders Marcus Semien and Corey Seager.

» see MLB | B9

AUTO RACING

Logano edges teammate Blaney for 3rd NASCAR Cup championship

By JENNA FRYER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

AVONDALE, ARIZ. | Joey Logano won his third NASCAR Cup Series championship Sunday with a relentless drive at Phoenix Raceway that gave Team Penske its third major motorsports title in less than a month.

Logano held off Penske teammate Ryan Blaney over the final 20 laps to beat

him for the series title by 0.330 seconds.

Blaney was trying to become the first back-to-back champion since Jimmie Johnson won five straight from 2006 to 2010.

Instead, Logano became the 10th driver in NASCAR history to win three or more championships. Kyle Busch is the only other active driver with multiple titles.

"I love the playoffs, I love it man,"

Logano said. "What a team, what a Penske battle there at the end. Three of them? That's truly special."

It was the first time in Team Penske history the organization finished 1-2 in the championship.

And, it came after Roger Penske's sports car team in IMSA won the title last month and his World Endurance Championship team won the title last weekend in Bahrain.

Penske said he worried in the closing laps his two drivers would crash into each other, ending the title hopes for both.

He also praised longtime sponsor Shell-Pennzoil, which was on Indianapolis 500 winner Josef Newgarden's car for his victory in May for Penske. Penske also deferred taking too much of the credit for the team success.

"It's all about the people," Penske

said. "My name might be on the door, but it's all about the people who make the difference and we sure have them on this team."

Blaney was exhausted after the race, and despite his disappointment was thrilled for the Penske organization.

"At least a Penske car won it," said Blaney. "They put together a great

» see NASCAR | B9