



Musk acted before U.S. watchdog could bite

DOGE dismantled agency otherwise able to oversee his new payment tool

BY TONY ROMM

About a week before Elon Musk helped take over the nation's leading consumer financial watchdog, his social media site, X, unfurled the details of a new payment system that may have drawn federal scrutiny — underscoring the complicated web of personal interests at stake as the world's richest person advises President Donald Trump on a reconfiguration of the U.S. government.

The system is called X Money, and in the vision sketched out by executives, it would allow millions of users on X to instantly send money to friends, family members and others. Heralding it as a breakthrough in finance, the company said in late January it would launch this year with the support of Visa, which processes billions of transactions globally.

Because of its direct ties to bank accounts and debit cards, X Money normally would fall under the remit of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, an agency with vast powers to crack down on unfair, deceptive and predatory

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Rally at Capitol: Federal workers protest amid looming cuts. B1

Critic's Notebook: The impact of a Kennedy Center takeover. C1

American Marc Fogel is released by Russia

Trump envoy negotiates 'exchange' for wrongfully imprisoned teacher

BY KAREN DEYOUNG AND SABRINA RODRIGUEZ

Marc Fogel, an American teacher arrested in Moscow in 2021 for alleged drug smuggling and later sentenced to 14 years in prison, was released from a Russian prison Tuesday following a negotiation headed by Steve Witkoff, President Donald Trump's special envoy to the Middle East, the White House announced.

A statement released Tuesday afternoon by Trump national security adviser Michael Waltz said Fogel, traveling with Witkoff, "is leaving Russian airspace."

"By tonight," the statement said, Fogel "will be on American soil and reunited with his family and loved ones thanks to President Trump's leadership." Adam Boehler, Trump's newly named special presidential envoy for hostage affairs, posted a picture of Fogel apparently aboard a private aircraft.

Later, the White House said Trump would meet with Fogel in the Diplomatic Reception Room at 10 p.m.

Waltz's statement said that Witkoff "and the President's advisers negotiated an exchange," although it did not say who or what

SEE FOGEL ON A18



CAROLYN VAN HOUTEN/THE WASHINGTON POST

Soldiers walk from a cave that once housed Islamic State fighters in Puntland, a remote semiautonomous region in Somalia's north.

The Islamic State has regrouped in Somalia — and it has global ambitions

Grinding fight against the group has immense stakes but little Western support

BY KATHARINE HOURELD IN BALIDHIDIN, SOMALIA

The dead Islamic State fighter was sprawled out on the ridge, bloodstains darkening in the sun, as a line of heavily armed Somali soldiers snaked down the mountainside to a fortified cave — their camouflage uniforms marking a new front line in the fight against the global terrorist group.

The Islamic State's Somali branch has become its new operational and financial hub, according to U.S. Africa Command (Africom), and local officials estimate there are as many as 1,000 militants under its command. Large numbers of foreign fight-

ers have flowed into Somalia, establishing a formidable force that now threatens Western targets. The branch has also become a key source of funding for other Islamic State affiliates around the world, which have killed thousands of people, including U.S. soldiers, according to U.N. investigators.

The struggle to contain this rising threat has fallen to forces in Puntland, a remote semiautonomous region in one of the world's poorest, weakest nations. Puntland's soldiers are now locked in a grinding fight — one with major international implications, but without Western support.

More than a month into their largest offensive against the group, Puntland officials say they have recaptured about 50 Is-

lamic State outposts and small bases and killed more than 150 fighters, nearly all of them foreign. But the toll on their side is growing, too, and there are fears here about how much longer they can sustain the fight.

Washington Post reporters toured the ever-expanding battlefield in Puntland, including recently discovered Islamic State caves; spoke to imprisoned Islamic State deserters who said they were forced to join the group; interviewed Somali and U.S. officials; and reviewed evidence collected from captured phones and drones. What emerges is the most complete account to date of how the Islamic State was able to regroup here over the past decade after losing its self-

SEE SOMALIA ON A10

Tariffs on China leave small businesses in a bind

BY JACLYN PEISER AND AARON GREGG

When a major retailer offered to carry Rozalynn Goodwin's patented barrettes at more than 870 stores in November, she was thrilled and relieved that, after more than a decade, her business was taking off.

But dread set in weeks later when President Donald Trump ordered an additional 10 percent

With little flexibility on production, rising costs threaten their survival

tariff on imports from China — where she manufactures hair clips for her company Confidence by GaBBY Goodwin. She didn't think her Columbia, South Caroli-

na-based business could absorb the added levy, but she risked losing sales if she passed the extra cost on to consumers.

Scaling up production "would have been a challenge anyway," she said, "but the tariffs make it even more of a challenge."

Trump's tariffs are forcing many small and midsize firms to face tough decisions that could threaten their survival. Among the dilemmas is whether to ab-

sorb higher costs or pass them on to consumers, which risks losing them to bigger competitors. Some businesses have already seen customers cancel orders to save money, said Jess Meher, a senior vice president at Loop Returns, a returns-management software company.

And the stakes are high for the U.S. economy. The country's 33.2 million small businesses,

SEE TARIFFS ON A16



SARAH L. VOISIN/THE WASHINGTON POST

Like many Hispanic residents, Leydi Flores worries about how O'Neill, Nebraska, is being affected by federal immigration raids. The tiny town went through a shattering raid in 2018.

Residents fear repeat of ICE raid that gutted town

O'Neill, Neb., is still reeling from a 2018 action that forced businesses to close and scarred immigrants

BY ANNIE GOWEN AND SARAH L. VOISIN

O'NEILL, NEB. — The Flores family invited almost everybody they knew to baby Elian's first birthday party, but Leydi Flores wasn't sure whether anyone would show up.

Her family's Mexican restaurant has had a ghostly feel in recent days, as many Latino families in this rural farming town lie low, scared that they might become targets of President Donald Trump's sweeping immigration crackdown. Across the country, raids have ensnared thousands and crowded immigration detention centers.

"I'm worried," Flores said, cuddling her grandson in a banquet room at the restaurant as her daughter put together an enormous cardboard Winnie-the-Pooh for the celebration. "We invited all these people. Will they come? Do they have visas or not? Will the police be outside watching?"

The close-knit community in O'Neill is still recovering from a 2018 raid by Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents at several agricultural facilities, which gutted the town, forced

SEE NEBRASKA ON A6

Papal rebuke: Francis criticizes Trump's deportation policy. A12

IN THE NEWS

Research funding under fire Cuts to the National Institutes of Health threaten 80 years of U.S. scientific dominance. A4

Record donation A longtime professor gave American University its largest-ever gift from an individual, much of which will benefit its School of Education. B1

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Virginia's regulating body for high school sports will limit participation on girls' teams to students assigned female at birth. B1

STYLE

Salman Rushdie took the stand in the trial of the man accused of stabbing him. C1

FOOD

At Moon Rabbit, chef Susan Bae is serving up arguably the most inventive desserts in the Washington restaurant scene right now. E1

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CORRECTION

• A Feb. 11 Health & Science section article about sleep problems for older adults misattributed a statement. It was Amy Goyer, not Brienne Miner, who said that her father had dementia and that she encouraged him to make several changes to his sleep routine.

CLARIFICATION

• A July 29 Metro article about a child who drowned in a pond said that the child, Fawzan Hassen, was autistic and nonverbal, based on a Montgomery County Police Department news release. His parents disputed that characterization, and the news release was later revised. In addition, the news release and article misspelled the child's last name.

The Washington Post is committed to correcting errors that appear in the newspaper. Those interested in contacting the paper for that purpose can:
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Call: 202-334-6000, and ask to be connected to the desk involved — National, Foreign, Metro, Style, Sports, Business or any of the weekly sections.

Trump’s attack on the Kennedy Center is petty but powerful



Robin Givhan

THE CRITIQUE

have been nearly unbelievable. But in this second Trump era, the move was inevitable. He’s declared his plan to rule over the center and to transform America’s singular cultural institution into an expression of his philistine tastes and urges.

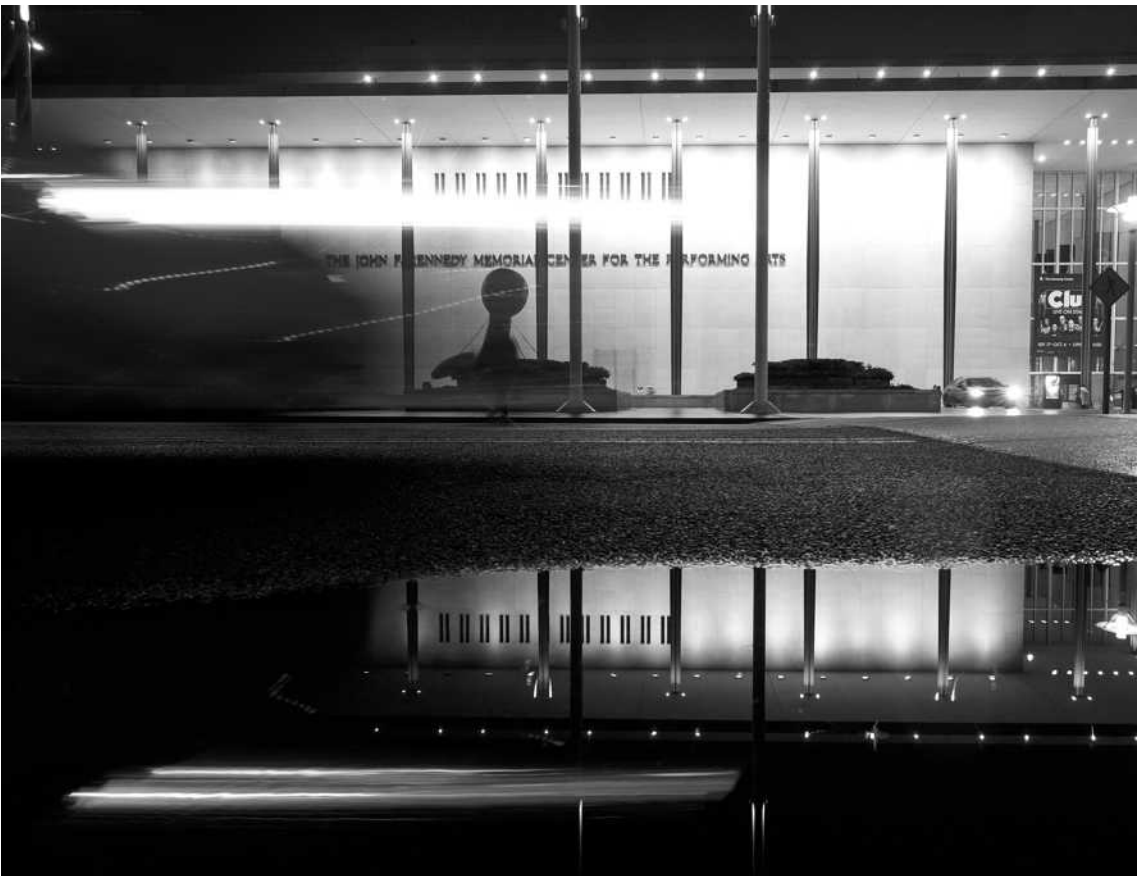
“I have decided to immediately terminate multiple individuals from the Board of Trustees, including the Chairman, who do not share our Vision for a Golden Age in Arts and Culture,” Trump wrote on social media. “We will soon announce a new Board, with an amazing Chairman, DONALD J. TRUMP!”

He will not be *serving* as chairman, which is how one might typically frame his recent announcement about taking on the unpaid role. Instead, his move suggests he may lord over its musicians and dancers to make sure they comply with his definition of patriotism and his ratings-driven instincts. He seems to want a scrutiny of performances to ensure that they are appropriately non-diverse and anti-inclusive. The Kennedy Center will become a meritocracy based on Trump’s personal standards of greatness.

The president doesn’t merely want to break the government bureaucracy. He wants to reprogram what the arts mean to the American people.

He is coming after their heart. Their imagination. Their elusive spirit.

He already has purged the board of folks recently appointed by President Joe Biden. He has enlisted his ally Richard Grenell as interim executive director. Trump has done this, he said, because he believes the center is poorly run and found that the shows are terrible, mostly because they are too “woke.” If the good Lord could just purge the word “woke” from the English language, the Almighty



CRAIG HUDSON FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

“There was nothing I wanted to see,” President Donald Trump said of the Kennedy Center.

will have done the country a fine service. But for now, woke is the word. Which in this instance, references to a handful of drag shows that people could choose to attend or simply ignore. Trump did neither.

He has never attended a Kennedy Center performance, but he could not resist an opportunity to be indignant. He admitted his lack of familiarity with the Kennedy Center to reporters on Air Force One. “I didn’t want to go,” he said. “There was nothing I wanted to see.”

During his first term, which began alongside the center’s 2017-2018 season, Trump never took in the National Symphony Orchestra. He did not attend a performance of “Hamilton” or “The Book of Mormon.” Over four years, he did not take an opportunity to relax with a comedy performance. He never took his grandchildren to a performance of “The Nutcracker.” He was so incurious that he ignored the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, which

is one of the most acclaimed and successful troupes in the world; its classic “Revelations” tells a story of American history.

Trump did not attend the Kennedy Center Honors. He did not sit in the presidential box and applaud the honorees, those men and women who have given their professional lives to the arts and who are exemplars of talent, tenacity and merit. Some of those honorees made it clear that they had no desire to be celebrated by Trump. In 2017, dancer Carmen de Lavallade, singer Lionel Richie and television producer Norman Lear all signaled their reticence to attend the traditional White House reception during Honors weekend, after Trump’s tepid denunciation of the white-supremacy march in Charlottesville that year. In return, the White House announced that Trump and the first lady would skip that year’s Honors.

He continued to avoid the Kennedy Center for the rest of his

term and thereafter. He was never the bigger man. He never allowed the public to see him lean on the arts for solace, balm or enlightenment. He has never given any indication that the arts have touched his soul or opened his mind. What the country knows about the president’s cultural tastes is that he loathes drag performances and can’t get enough of Lee Greenwood, the Village People and cartoon wrestlers. So be it. The president isn’t raising his hand to be a cultural critic.

Instead, Trump is setting himself up to be the culture police. That’s tantamount to regulating the degree to which people are encouraged to think broadly, to conceive of ways to make the impossible a reality, to marvel at the fragile majesty of nature, to protest, to laugh, to find cathartic release. To dream with abandon. That is the power of the arts, after all.

The government, through its laundry list of policies and proposals, can depress the arts in

myriad ways, by making it more difficult for arts organizations to sustain themselves, by pricing artists out of their communities, by making audiences jump through needless hurdles of taxes and fees to engage with expressions of creativity. But that’s all paperwork, budgets and real estate. What Trump is taking aim at is the way in which people think about themselves and others — about everyone’s place within this country.

At their best, the arts help people to think more deeply and more broadly. They help people grasp commonalities across expansive divides. Sometimes they highlight the greatness of man, but more often and more powerfully, they remind people of their fallibility. And for Trump, with his jaw set and his eyes focused solely on greatness, fallibility is unthinkable.

It’s impossible to consider Trump’s desire to control the Kennedy Center without thinking of his recent bullying tactics that had the National Endowment for the Arts cut a grant fund aimed at supporting underserved communities and instead prioritizing those projects aimed at celebrating the country’s 250th birthday. The overarching message? Inclusivity and patriotism are mutually exclusive.

He has purged the Smithsonian Institutions of references to diversity. Harangued the National Gallery of Art out of mentioning inclusivity. He wants to delete modernist and contemporary architecture from the federal city, which is to say that he is not simply concerned with how and where citizens work but the way in which they think about themselves in relationship to the state. He wants his buildings to be grand, so that their occupants feel small and inconsequential.

But his assault on the Kennedy Center is different. It’s not about a change in policy or a rewriting of grant requirements. He’s not complaining about budgets. It’s really not even about disliking the art, because Trump hasn’t actually seen or heard it. He just doesn’t like the idea of it. The thought of it.

The thinking.

Bannon avoids prison or probation in N.Y. charity-fraud case

BY SHAYNA JACOBS

NEW YORK — Stephen K. Bannon, a former adviser to President Donald Trump, pleaded guilty Tuesday to a charity-fraud scheme in state court in Manhattan but will not serve prison time or probation as part of an agreement with prosecutors.

Bannon was sentenced to a conditional discharge in New York Supreme Court, a punishment similar to the nonsentence Trump received in the same courthouse last month for his conviction on 34

counts of falsifying business records.

The plea agreement between Bannon and prosecutors established that he could be sentenced to prison if he commits another crime in the next three years, is caught operating a charity or non-profit in New York, or mishandles data collected from donors to We Build the Wall, the fundraising effort at the center of the fraud he committed with others who were convicted separately in federal court. He also cannot possess any data collected from the organization’s supporters.

The Manhattan district attorney’s office did not offer a rationale for offering a sentence known

as a conditional discharge when the agreement was struck in court. Alvin Bragg (D), the district attorney, said in a statement that the agreement met the “primary goal: to protect New York’s charities and New Yorkers’ charitable giving from fraud.”

Bannon’s attorney Arthur Aidala said after the proceeding that a trial in Manhattan wouldn’t have been fair because of the Democratic-leaning political makeup of the borough. Bannon “wants to fight but he realized that maybe this was a fight, because of the forum he was in, that he was never going to win, and he has much bigger and better things to do than sit here for three weeks during a tri-

al,” Aidala said.

The conservative activist was indicted in 2022 in state court for defrauding donors to the We Build the Wall group he ran with other organizers. He had been charged in federal court with stealing \$1 million from the fundraising effort, which the group claimed was set up to support Trump’s initiative to build a wall on the U.S.-Mexico border during his first term. Trump pardoned Bannon as his term concluded in early 2021, and local prosecutors picked up the case.

“As alleged, Stephen K. Bannon acted as the architect of a multi-million-dollar scheme to defraud thousands of donors,” Bragg said

in a statement at the time.

In the state court case, Bannon was accused of laundering money to pay salaries to others involved in the scheme and direct money to his own organization after representing to fundraising prospects that all money collected would support the wall’s construction.

Bannon’s co-defendants in the federal case were not pardoned by Trump and received prison terms. Brian Kolfage and Andrew Badolato pleaded guilty and were sentenced in April 2023 to 51 and 36 months in prison, respectively. Another defendant, Timothy Shea, was convicted at trial and sentenced in July 2023 to 63 months in prison.

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DIGEST

TENNESSEE
Six officers charged with excessive force

Six Tennessee law enforcement officers are scheduled to appear in court next week on charges including the use of excessive force while arresting a man suspected of killing his ex-girlfriend at a Memphis-area park and then leading authorities on a three-county chase, a district attorney said Tuesday.

The officers were indicted Monday on charges related to the arrest of Jackson Hopper, 27, who has been charged with first-degree murder in the death of 22-year-old Ellie Young in October at Shelby Farms Park, the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation said.

Authorities said Hopper fired two shots into Young’s Jeep in a parking lot, then shot her as she lay on the ground. Hopper then led authorities on a chase before he crashed and was arrested. Video taken by a bystander shows officers punching Hopper after he crashed his car, news outlets reported.

Hopper pleaded not guilty to the murder charge, said his lawyer, Leslie Ballin.

Young, a medical student, was at the park for a charity walk.

The officers who were charged are Zachary Antle of the Mason Police Department; Bryan Lane and Benjamin Stanifer of the Lauderdale County Sheriff’s

Office; and Matthew Lawler, Samuel Chastain and Dakota Wilkerson of the Tipton County Sheriff’s Office.

Antle, Lane, Chastain and Wilkerson have been charged with official misconduct, official oppression and assault. Stanifer and Lawler have been charged with tampering with evidence.

All six are scheduled to appear before a judge Feb. 18, said Dyer County District Attorney Danny Goodman.

— Associated Press

CALIFORNIA
Teen sentenced for making ‘swatting’ calls

A California teenager was sentenced Tuesday to four years in prison in a case involving hundreds of swatting calls, including to a Florida mosque among other institutions and individuals, federal prosecutors said.

Alan W. Filion, 18, pleaded guilty in November to four counts of making interstate threats to injure the person of another. Swatting is the practice of making a prank call to emergency services in an attempt to get a large number of armed police officers dispatched to a particular address.

The U.S. attorney’s office said Filion made more than 375 swatting and threat calls from August 2022 to January 2024 when he was 16.

— Associated Press

POLITICS & THE NATION

Experts disagree with RFK Jr.’s claims that vaccines aren’t tested enough

They say trials with placebos, as he wants, would be irresponsible

BY LAUREN WEBER AND CAITLIN GILBERT

Robert F. Kennedy Jr., awaiting confirmation to become secretary of health and human services, has repeatedly claimed that vaccines are not tested rigorously enough and has called for an alternative type of testing that medical experts say would be unethical, according to a Washington Post review of his public statements from recent years.

In at least 34 appearances, Kennedy called for placebo-controlled studies for vaccines that have already been approved for use, The Post found in a review of more than 400 of Kennedy’s podcast appearances, interviews and public speeches since 2020. In his push for vaccine safety, Kennedy has repeatedly falsely linked vaccines to deaths without evidence, saying “that’s the danger of not having placebo-controlled trials.”

But experts say placebo-controlled trials — where one group of people gets a medicine or treatment and the other does not — would be irresponsible to apply to most vaccines because it could deprive people of immunizations already proved to prevent infectious disease. In practice, that could mean several thousand children in Chicago, for instance, would not get childhood vaccinations, while their neighbors did.

In an interview with a health and wellness influencer in January 2024 while he was mounting his campaign for president, Kennedy vowed that if he won the presidency, he would “reorient” National Institutes of Health research efforts to focus on vaccine safety, saying “none of the childhood [vaccines] have ever been studied” and “we ought to evaluate the risk profile realistically over long periods of time.” In a separate 2023 interview, he promised to “immediately do placebo-controlled trials.”

Kennedy’s insistence that vaccines are not regulated adequately fits a broad pattern of his disparagement of them despite overwhelming scientific evidence, a previous Post examination found. Public health leaders fear that if Kennedy is confirmed to run the Department of Health and Human Services, his views will seep into the nation’s vaccine policy, delay the development of lifesaving shots and further intensify vaccine hesitancy.

“He’s going to do everything he can to weaken the infrastructure of vaccines,” said Paul Offit, director of the Vaccine Education Center at Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia.

Requests for comment to Ken-



Sen. Bill Cassidy (R-Louisiana) speaks with Robert F. Kennedy Jr., nominated to be secretary of health and human services, after Kennedy testified before Cassidy’s Senate health panel Jan. 30.

nedy went unanswered. If Democrats collectively rally against Kennedy during his confirmation vote, which is widely expected to take place this week, he can afford to lose only three Republican senators to secure the nomination.

In his Senate hearing in front of the health committee, Kennedy

would have the powerful bully pulpit as HHS secretary, said Amesh Adalja, an infectious-disease physician and senior scholar at the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security.

“He doesn’t have to create a parallel system, he just has to open his mouth,” Adalja said.

Unpacking placebo-controlled trials

Kennedy often makes the misleading argument that without placebo-controlled trials, Americans cannot know if vaccines are having long-term side effects.

“Vaccines are the only medication that are exempt from pre-licensing placebo-controlled trials,” he said in a Rumble interview with Glenn Greenwald in 2023. “So the only way that you get that information ... is if you test a large cohort of people who are vaccinated and measure them against a large cohort that are unvaccinated and then watch them for about five years.”

Placebo-controlled trials are considered the scientific gold standard in testing medicines and vaccines. A group that receives treatment and a group that does not are measured for the outcomes over a period of time to ensure the treatment is safe and effective.

Newly developed vaccines for diseases that do not have an existing one undergo such placebo-controlled trials — such as the first iterations of the coronavirus vaccine. But for diseases where a vaccine exists, the medical community considers it unethical to deprive children or adults of an effective vaccine that could protect them from harmful and potentially deadly pathogens.

Thus those new variations of those vaccines undergo clinical

trials, in which the control group receives the prior vaccine that is considered the standard of care, and its outcomes are monitored against the group that receives the newly formulated vaccine.

What Kennedy repeatedly suggests — running placebo-control trials on previously approved vaccines — flies in the face of medical ethics, Adalja said.

“No doctor is going to risk a malpractice lawsuit for not giving somebody a vaccine that works,” he said.

Kennedy’s argument that the vaccines are not fully tested also overlooks those who could suffer if placed in the placebo group, Offit said, pointing to the “casual cruelty” of the U.S. polio vaccine trial organized by the nonprofit health organization March of Dimes. In 1954, a polio vaccine created by Jonas Salk was tested against a placebo group of hundreds of thousands of children against his wishes, as Salk be-

lieved it was probably effective against the disease and thought giving them a placebo would be immoral.

While 420,000 U.S. children were given Salk’s inactivated polio vaccine, 200,000 were inoculated with salt water. The 16 children who died were all in the placebo group, and 34 were paralyzed, Offit said, according to research he had done for a book.

That kind of trade-off is unacceptable when there already are vaccines that are known to prevent infectious disease, Offit said.

Vaccine safety testing

Kennedy has repeatedly claimed that vaccines are not tested as much as medicines when he makes his pitch for placebo-controlled studies.

“They’re the only medicine or medical product that are exempt from pre-licensing safety trials,” Kennedy said in an interview with Piers Morgan in 2023.

Experts say his claim that vaccines do not undergo pre-licensing safety trials is not true — vaccines go through several stages of clinical trials before approval. Thousands of people are studied along the way to determine vaccines’ safety and effectiveness before they are rolled out to the public. And after vaccines are in use, companies, health-care providers and the federal government monitor for additional adverse events.

Kennedy’s claims that vaccines aren’t tested as much as medicines are also false, said David Gorski, a Wayne State University School of Medicine professor of surgery and oncology and managing editor of Science-Based Medicine, which debunks misinformation in medicine.

“It’s exactly the opposite, they’re tested way more rigorously than medicines,” he said, noting that while medicines are given to treat a condition, vaccines are given to healthy people, so the tolerance for risk of adverse events is much lower.

Offit said there is no government-led system to monitor drugs after they’re rolled out as rigorous

as the Vaccine Safety Datalink, which monitors electronic health record data to “assess vaccine safety and detect adverse events in near-real time,” according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Kennedy, however, often falsely links the growing vaccine schedule — which has grown along with scientific breakthroughs — to autism, food allergies and chronic disease.

“Not one of those 72 vaccines has ever had a pre-licensing safety study, which means nobody can tell you whether that product is going to have heard more problems than it causes,” Kennedy said in an appearance on Chris Cuomo’s NewsNation show last year.

Arguing that not a single childhood vaccine was ever studied before it was licensed is false, experts say. Additionally, it’s a claim that ignores the safety systems set up to catch vaccine injuries and safety signals, experts said, allowing vaccines to be pulled off the market if they are found to be unsafe. That process was on display when the government’s extensive monitoring system for adverse events linked the Johnson & Johnson coronavirus vaccine to a rare side effect — blood clots that resulted in nine patient deaths in the United States. That vaccine was pulled.

Kennedy’s long history of throwing out scientific-sounding statements should not disguise the truth of the robust vaccine monitoring that takes place in the United States, said Richard Hughes IV, a former vice president of public policy at Moderna who teaches vaccine law at the George Washington University Law School.

“What [Kennedy] does is he repeats this and it sounds important, it sounds like why would we not develop the safety data?” Hughes said. “And lawmakers sometimes buy into that and say ‘Well, why shouldn’t we have the safety data?’ But the fact is we already have the safety data. And we have these robust systems for continuously monitoring vaccines.”



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Trump’s NIH challenges the model underlying U.S. scientific dominance

BY CAROLYN Y. JOHNSON,
SUSAN SVRLUGA
AND JOEL ACHENBACH

At Mark Peifer’s University of North Carolina lab, scientists study the elaborate machinery that cells use to communicate with one another, which often goes awry in colon cancer.

Last week, the “cold room” on his floor went down. No cold room, no experiments — at least until university facilities personnel were able to fix it.

The maintenance of research facilities is included in about \$208,000 for “indirect costs” that are part of Peifer’s nearly \$600,000 grant from the National Institutes of Health — money that allows his whole enterprise to continue functioning.

But in a bombshell announcement Friday night, NIH said it would immediately impose a dramatic cut in funding for such indirect expenditures, the latest abrupt action by the Trump administration. On Monday afternoon, a federal judge in Massachusetts issued a temporary restraining order that halts the move in 22 states that sued to stop it. That evening, a coalition including three large higher education associations and some of the country’s most elite universities filed a more sweeping lawsuit seeking to stop the cuts nationwide.

“Without overhead, universities cannot support labs like mine,” Peifer said in an email. “The aging building in which I work will literally fall apart around me if the maintenance is removed. No new faculty will be hired. I guess I’ll have to manage my \$375,000/year budget with a calculator?”

For 80 years the great research institutions of America have enjoyed a special relationship with the federal government, one that has powered scientific and technological innovation and made the nation’s universities a magnet for the world’s most brilliant scientists and engineers. Research leaders contend that the NIH decision will damage America’s ability to compete with China and other nations on the frontier of biomedicine.

Although it is framed as a simple cost-cutting move, it is part of aggressive actions from the administration that have shaken the scientific and medical establishment.

In a post on X, NIH said the cap on indirect costs would save \$4 billion per year. The agency said in a guidance notice that about \$9 billion of the \$35 billion it awarded to researchers in fiscal 2023 was for indirect costs. About 80 percent of the NIH budget goes to outside institutions.

An NIH post on X highlighted the “indirect cost rate” for research at three elite institutions — Harvard University (69 percent), Yale University (67.5) and Johns Hopkins University (63.7). The new NIH proposal would cap the overhead rate at 15 percent for all institutions. That is similar to what philanthropic foundations apply to research grants.



CORBIS JENSEN/UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA

A researcher at the University of North Carolina. The origins of the federal academic-research funding model date to the mid-1940s.

On X, Elon Musk, the billionaire entrepreneur who heads President Donald Trump’s newly formed U.S. DOGE Service, wrote this weekend, “Can you believe that universities with tens of billions in endowments were siphoning off 60% of research award money for ‘overhead’? What a ripoff!”

This is a mischaracterization of those percentages. An institution with a 60 percent overhead rate and \$100,000 for direct research costs would get a total of \$160,000, including the indirect costs supplement.

Trump, asked about the NIH decision, said, “Why are we giving money to Harvard when it’s got a \$50 billion endowment, 50 billion, and yet they don’t use that endowment to help their students. ... We want to take care of research. We want to take care of a lot of things.”

Andrew G. Nixon, a spokesman for the Department of Health and Human Services, said in an email Monday that “our Administration wants to help America have the best research in the world, and we believe that by ensuring that more cents on every dollar go directly to science and not to administrative overhead, we can take another step in that direction.”

Leaders in the research community acknowledge that there is inefficiency and waste in the system. There have been bipartisan efforts to reform the cost of overhead. Researchers have long grumbled about funding that winds up in administrative offices rather than in laboratories. And some of the wealthiest universities have built extravagant

facilities, often named for donors, that require significant overhead costs funded in part by federal grants.

Bruce Alberts, emeritus professor of biochemistry and biophysics at the University of California at San Francisco, said he supported efforts under President Barack Obama to reform the overhead system, which has grown in part

“Now, you take a world-leading area where we are clearly the dominant, best in the world, and then you completely undercut it. ... That is not making America great again.”

Ezekiel Emanuel, vice provost for global initiatives at the University of Pennsylvania

because of ever-increasing regulatory requirements. But a 15 percent cap imposed suddenly would be catastrophic, he believes.

“If you want to fix that, you don’t do that in one fell swoop and have all the dinosaurs die. You have to do it in a thoughtful way,” Alberts said.

Although the NIH move will have a major impact on elite institutions — Stanford University said such a cut would cost the school \$160 million per year —

the trimming of indirect costs will also affect smaller institutions, including public universities and colleges, as well as standalone research institutes that depend on very high rates of funding for overhead.

The barrage of executive orders from the Trump administration targeting the science and medicine communities will hit red and blue states alike. In Alabama, officials this past weekend expressed concern about what the funding change could do to institutions such as the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

Sen. Katie Boyd Britt (R-Alabama) told AL.com, “While the administration works to achieve this goal at NIH, a smart, targeted approach is needed to not hinder lifesaving, groundbreaking research at high-achieving institutions like those in Alabama.”

The initiative that powered U.S. research universities formed in the wake of World War II. It dates to July 1945, when Vannavar Bush, head of the U.S. Office of Scientific Research and Development, sent a report to President Harry S. Truman titled “Science — the Endless Frontier.”

Bush declared that the federal government should spur innovation by funneling grants to universities and research institutions. That was a bold notion in an era when most research was funded by universities, philanthropic foundations and private companies.

Bush’s 80-year-old treatise has been invoked repeatedly by leaders in the research community since Friday.

“At a time of rapid strides in quantum computing, artificial in-

telligence, brain science, biological imaging, and regenerative biology, and when other nations are expanding their investment in science, America should not drop knowingly and willingly from her lead position on the endless frontier,” Harvard President Alan M. Garber said in a letter to the university community.

Shirley Tilghman, a molecular biologist and former president of Princeton University, said the relationship between research institutions and the government was always designed to be a partnership.

“When we think about what is going to be immediately affected at universities, it’s going to be the ability to keep the lights on, to keep the people in the personnel office, the people in the purchasing office, the ability to provide liquid nitrogen to liquid nitrogen freezers,” she said in an interview Saturday. “It’s tragic that we are contemplating as a country destroying one of the great crown jewels of this country over the last 75 years. It will destroy it.”

Ezekiel Emanuel, vice provost for global initiatives at the University of Pennsylvania, said biomedical research and biotechnology are two areas in which the United States enjoys global supremacy.

“Now, you take a world-leading area where we are clearly the dominant, best in the world, and then you completely undercut it by this move to reduce payments for research,” Emanuel said. “That is not making America great again.”

The federal government spends about \$200 billion a year for research and development. It

is the largest funder for “basic” research that may or may not lead to a useful application.

Research institutions negotiate with the government to settle on a fixed rate for indirect costs. For example, the University of Michigan said it receives a 56 percent rate for overhead. The University of Houston reports that its rate is 55 percent for on-campus research and 26 percent for off-campus research.

Those indirect-cost rates are set through a complex and very detailed negotiation process administered by HHS and the Office of Naval Research. Some institutions receive a higher percentage than others because of factors that include the cost of doing business in their area.

“If we started with a system, if we wanted to start with first principles, one probably would not come up with the system of indirect-cost recovery rates as it exists today,” said Pierre Azoulay, an economist and professor at the MIT Sloan School of Management. Azoulay is working on a grant funded by the National Science Foundation to study indirect costs in academic institutions.

He said the new NIH policy is a “crazy” approach to policy, but he would not defend the status quo. The issue of indirect-cost rate is the “dark underbelly of the science funding ecosystem,” he said.

He said research institutions, which mainly conduct science research and do not have diverse funding streams or income from teaching students or endowments, are most likely to be hit the hardest by the NIH decision.

“There is a lot to criticize, and a lot to potentially reform. You need a scalpel, not a hatchet. You might cut into living tissue,” Azoulay said.

NIH funds many small research operations as well as large universities. Nick Reder, a pathologist in Washington state, wants to make cancer diagnoses faster and more accurate. His small start-up company, Alpenglows Biosciences, has an NIH grant to build a “smart microscope,” powered by artificial intelligence, that can rapidly identify cases of prostate cancer that are likely to metastasize or respond well to drugs.

Reder left a comfortable faculty job at the University of Washington where he sometimes commiserated with colleagues over the big chunks of a federal grant that went to the university and not directly to their experiments. But his views changed when he started his own company.

He suddenly found himself personally tasked with all the indirect costs of managing grants and maintaining facilities. Six years later, he sees a system that could be made more efficient by cutting some administrative requirements, but believes a cap of 15 percent on overhead would shift his company’s ambitions from transforming cancer care to incremental projects with a reliable revenue stream.

“We would not be able to keep the lights on,” Reder said.

Matt Viser contributed to this report.

Judge tells CDC, FDA to restore sites taken down after Trump gender order

BY SALVADOR RIZZO
AND LENA H. SUN

A federal judge on Tuesday ordered the nation’s premier health agencies to restore online access to several websites that monitor HIV, health risks for youths and assisted reproductive technologies, which were abruptly taken offline to ensure they complied with President Donald Trump’s recent executive order on gender.

U.S. District Judge John D. Bates granted a temporary restraining order requested by the nonprofit advocacy group Doctors for America, directing the administration to bring back public information maintained by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Food and Drug Administration while a lawsuit challenging the decision to remove it is pending.

“By removing long relied upon medical resources without explanation, it is likely that ... each agency failed to ‘examine the relevant data and articulate a satisfactory explanation for its action,’” Bates wrote in an opinion issued Tuesday, finding that the health agencies probably violated federal law in taking down the scientific data. He ordered the agencies to restore access to the websites by the end of Tuesday.

It was not clear whether staffers at the CDC were immediately proceeding to restore the pages and datasets cited by the judge or awaiting further guidance. But the efforts have been time-consuming and taken staff away from their public health duties, a federal health official said.

“It was a double waste for us because we took them offline, put some of them back, edited others and now are putting it back again,” said the official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to share internal deliberations.

A spokesperson for the Department of Health and Human Services, which includes the CDC and FDA, did not respond to a request for comment on the judge’s ruling.

The ruling is the latest loss in court for the new administration. Federal judges across the country have temporarily blocked Trump’s moves to freeze federal spending authorized by Congress, ban birthright citizenship, alter Treasury Department payment records and offer buyouts to thousands of federal workers, pausing executive orders and agency moves.

About a dozen public health websites, some of which had been online since the 1990s, were pulled from the internet late last month after Trump signed an executive order directing federal agencies to recognize only male and female genders, and the Office of Personnel Management issued a memorandum saying agency heads should “end all agency programs that use taxpayer money to promote or reflect gender ideology.” A Justice Department attorney representing the health agencies said they needed to review the sites’ content for compliance with the order.

Doctors for America, whose members practice medicine in all 50 states, said the removals went beyond the terms of the executive



TAMI CHAPPELL/REUTERS

The CDC in Atlanta. It was not clear whether agency staffers were immediately restoring the pages and datasets cited by the judge.

order and have left the public exposed to a broad swath of health risks. Zachary R. Shelley, an attorney for the group, described it in a court hearing Monday as “a major health-care nightmare.”

Some information scrubbed from the CDC’s “Social Vulnerability Index,” for example, was key to identifying high-risk hot spots during the pandemic, Doctors for America said in a court filing. Two FDA websites taken offline were being used to improve clinical studies by tracking efforts to diversify trial participants. Other online resources covered health risks for youths, HIV monitoring and the National Assisted Reproductive Technologies Surveillance System, a database used by fertility experts to track nationwide success rates for procedures such as in vitro fertilization.

Lucia Leone, an associate professor at the University of Buffalo, posted on social media Monday that a 2017 paper she co-authored on the use of mobile vans to increase access to fresh vegetables in low-income communities was taken down from the CDC’s “Preventing Chronic Disease” journal website, most likely because it contained the word “diverse.”

In a post on social media and LinkedIn, she noted the offending sentence: “Organizations serving low-income, diverse populations were identified as the priority for recruitment because of significantly lower rates of fruit and vegetable consumption among these groups in North Carolina.”

Physicians reacted cautiously to the order to restore the sites.

“Restoring access to this vital data is welcome news, if it hap-

pens, but this list doesn’t cover everything that has gone missing” from websites of HHS agencies, said Steven Woolf, director emeritus and senior adviser at Virginia Commonwealth University’s Center on Society and Health.

In addition, a big question remains “whether they are going to follow the court orders,” he said.

“I have been furiously checking the website of the youth behavior risk survey to see whether the data in that survey on LGBTQ youths have survived,” said Woolf, referring to a survey done every two years to assess the health behaviors of high school students. He could not find the data.

Those who filed the suit argued that CDC and FDA officials violated the Administrative Procedure Act, which sets out steps for federal agencies that are implementing new policies, and the Paperwork Reduction Act, which requires officials to “ensure that the public has timely and equitable access to the agency’s public information.” A Justice Department attorney said the doctors and medical professionals lacked legal standing to challenge the actions because the CDC and FDA moves were not yet final agency actions under the meaning of the Administrative Procedure Act — and could be reversed by the time officials were done reviewing the materials.

James W. Harlow, a senior trial attorney in Justice’s consumer protection branch, noted that the information remains available on the Internet Archive’s Wayback Machine, a private service that stores snapshots of websites.

“The doctors just prefer not to

search. But one’s ‘desire’ for information from a preferred government source and in a preferred format does not establish informational injury when the content is otherwise obtainable,” Harlow said in a legal filing, referring to two doctors who submitted court declarations saying the website removals were impeding their ability to treat patients.

One of them, Reshma Ramachandran, an assistant professor at the Yale School of Medicine, said the CDC removed a website with contraceptive guidance for health-care providers. “I take care of female patients of reproductive age, many of whom have other medical conditions making it imperative to select the appropriate contraceptive that would not interfere with their existing comorbidities and other medications,” she said in a court filing. A longer CDC report on the same topic remains available, she said, but is more cumbersome to sift through when consulting patients.

The other doctor, Stephanie Liou, said she often screens patients for HIV and prescribes medication to prevent such infections. The CDC removed information on HIV and PrEP, a medication that reduces the risk of contracting AIDS.

Harlow’s arguments that the data could be obtained from other sources drew several sharp questions from the judge. Bates, nominated to the bench by President George W. Bush in 2001, said the administration should have kept the websites online while it reviewed their content, instead of removing them without notice.

Flu surges nationwide, with health officials stressing preventive measures

This season’s 24 million cases burdening some schools and hospitals

BY SABRINA MALHI

Flu cases are surging across the nation, closing nearly a dozen schools and swamping hospitals in some states.

At least 24 million cases, 310,000 hospitalizations and 13,000 deaths — 57 of them children — have been reported for this flu season, which began in October, according to data released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Friday.

Ten states and New York City are experiencing the highest level of flu activity, according to the CDC.

New York City, reported more than 51,000 positive flu tests during the week ending Jan. 25, a 6 percent increase from the previous week. About 3,000 people were hospitalized with the flu that same week, an 11 percent rise compared with the week before.

The states are Massachusetts, Michigan, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, Ohio, South Carolina, Tennessee and Texas.

Inessa Gendlina, a hospital epidemiologist at Montefiore Medical Center in New York attributed the increase to fewer people wearing masks, a less effective influenza vaccine this year and fewer mitigation strategies such as people social distancing and

staying home when a person is sick.

“We’re hoping that it’s going to start turning around, probably in the next week or two, but it’s definitely challenging to be able to predict now,” Gendlina said. “Flu seasons are like snowflakes. No flu seasons are exactly the same.”

About 45 percent adults received a flu shot this season, about the same number of people compared with the same time in the 2023-2024 season. Gendlina encouraged people who have yet to receive their flu vaccine to do so.

“It’s definitely not too late and it’s definitely time if somebody hasn’t gotten their flu vaccine yet. Today is the day,” said Gendlina.

The brunt of the flu this season has impacted schools across the country, forcing some to close temporarily as outbreaks spread among students and staff.

On Friday, St. Peter Catholic School in Canton, Ohio, said it would be closed “due to an excessive number of staff and student illnesses.” While the school had originally planned to reopen on Monday, it remained closed due to the continued prevalence of illness among its staff.

The rise in cases has sparked concern among some, but health experts say the current trend aligns closely with a typical flu season.

Mark J. Mulligan, chief of infectious disease and director of the vaccine center at NYU Langone Health, said the flu generally peaks in February, so while the numbers are high, he is not con-



MARCO BELLO/BLOOMBERG NEWS

A sign for free flu shots at a CVS Pharmacy in Miami, pictured in September 2020. Ten states and New York City are experiencing the highest level of flu activity, the CDC said on Friday.

cerned.

“We’re still seeing some of the aftereffects of covid when people didn’t get those exposures during that year,” Mulligan said.

Health officials continue to stress the importance of basic preventive measures to minimize the spread of the flu. An annual flu vaccine remains the most effective way to reduce the risk of severe illness, especially for

young children, the elderly and those with underlying health conditions.

“The flu vaccine needs to be improved, but it’s the best thing we have right now,” Mulligan said.

Experts say a communication pause has made it increasingly difficult to track and understand how the disease spreads, leaving both medical professionals and the public with limited guidance.

On Jan. 21, the Trump administration paused all external communications from health agencies though some have been reinstated.

Historically, the CDC has issued these alerts to inform health-care providers about emerging health threats and seasonal surges in illnesses such as the flu.

These alerts are crucial in helping doctors recognize infection patterns and prepare for potential increases in patient volume. Without clear updates from federal agencies, many health professionals said they have had to rely on piecemeal information, making it harder to coordinate an effective response.

Zachary Rubin, a pediatric immunologist in Illinois, said the absence of these updates has made his job more difficult.

“When we can’t find the information combating any type of public health issue, whether it’s influenza or an emerging pandemic, we’re not able to communicate this information to the general public,” Rubin said. “It’s not proper health communication that’s going on.”

The lack of federal guidance has also affected public awareness efforts, making it harder to convey the severity of the flu season to communities that may not see the full picture, according to medical providers. Many doctors and public health officials are calling for a return to regular health alerts.

Dan Keating contributed to this report.

New version of bird flu infects Nev. farmworker

BY LENA H. SUN

A Nevada dairy worker was infected with a version of bird flu that is known to have killed one person in the United States and severely sickened a teen in Canada, state and federal health authorities said Monday.

This version of the virus was detected for the first time in dairy farms last month in Nevada. The Central Nevada Health District said Monday that an adult was exposed to infected dairy cattle while working at a farm in the northwestern part of the state. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said its genetic analysis confirmed that the virus in the Nevada person is the same as was detected in the Nevada dairy cows.

The Nevada worker had conjunctivitis, commonly known as pink eye, but no other reported symptoms. The worker is recovering, the district said, and close contacts and other workers ex-

posed at the farm are being contacted and monitored for symptoms. They are being offered personal protective equipment, testing and antiviral medication, the district said. No additional cases have been confirmed.

The latest development comes after federal agriculture officials announced last week that they had identified this version of the virus in dairy herds in Nevada. The discovery of this version, called D1.1, has raised concerns among experts that dairy cows may be more susceptible to the H5N1 virus, thereby increasing the risk of cow-to-human spread, especially for farmworkers and others in close contact with the animals.

The CDC said in a statement that this case involving “cow-to-human spread of H5 in a person with higher-risk occupational exposure does not change CDC’s risk assessment, which remains low for the public but is higher for people with occupational or recreational exposures.”

There is currently no evidence of person-to-person spread of H5N1 bird flu from the worker in Nevada to others. “Combined with the mild nature of the individual’s illness, this case does not change CDC’s low risk assessment for the public,” the agency said.

This version of the virus is circulating broadly in wild birds and is likely to have infected 15

people in Iowa, Louisiana, Oregon, Washington and Wisconsin during 2024, the CDC said.

It is different from the B3.13 virus that has caused dairy cow outbreaks and the majority of the 68 human infections in the United States since the outbreak among cows was first disclosed in March 2024. Most of the infections in people have been mild, regardless of which version of the virus infected them.

The exception is the fatal case of a Louisiana man — the first U.S. bird flu death — who had prolonged, unprotected exposure to infected backyard birds, the CDC said. The D1.1 version of the virus also sickened a teen in Canada, who probably became infected from exposure to poultry or wild birds, because the virus in her was closely related to viruses circulating in wild birds in British Columbia, experts have said.

The D1.1 version of the virus in the Nevada worker contains a genetic mutation that has previously been linked to more efficient virus replication in people and other mammals, the CDC said. But no other mutations were identified. The agency also did not identify any changes that would suggest decreased effectiveness of current antiviral treatments, such as Tamiflu.

The infection of the Nevada worker is concerning but not that surprising, because officials and experts still do not have the full picture of how the H5N1 virus spreads to humans and how sick they get.

“The cow has now served as a vehicle for onward transmission to humans,” said Abraar Karan, an infectious-disease physician at Stanford University.

For months, experts and health officials have underscored the importance of farmworkers using appropriate personal protective equipment to protect against splashes of milk or feathers and dust in poultry farms.

The infection in the Nevada dairy worker suggests the requirement for personal protective equipment “was breached, or something was not being cleaned properly,” Karan said.

The finding of D1.1 in the Nevada dairy cows raises questions about early assumptions by federal agriculture and health officials that the outbreak in dairy cows in spring 2024 began when the virus jumped from birds to cows in the Texas panhandle last year in a single event.

The detection of D1.1 in Nevada cows “is the second spillover event from migratory wild birds to dairy cattle,” the U.S. Agriculture Department has reported. Agriculture officials found the virus after testing raw milk collected from a silo as part of a national milk-testing strategy begun last year by the USDA. It’s not clear how this version of the virus spilled into the Nevada herds. The affected dairy producers in Nevada had reported large wild bird die-offs near the dairies.

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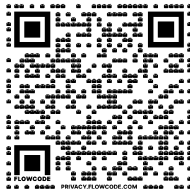


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Town’s residents live in fear of another ICE raid

NEBRASKA FROM A1

some businesses to close and left many residents reeling.

“I feel like we’ve bounced back to a certain extent, but I feel like there’s a heaviness you can’t truly recover from,” said Kasey Hoffman, a part-time English teacher who helped care for children at the local elementary school after their parents were detained seven years ago. “Even now, it just feels so heavy.”

The town took a big hit to its workforce in the aftermath of the raid. At least 100 families moved away. The impact still gives people pause, even in an overwhelmingly White county of ranches and cornfields that went for Trump by a huge margin in November. A flag flying in one yard these days urges “Take America Back.”

“Whatever you believe about immigration,” said Bill Price, who was mayor at the time, “the realities are, they fulfill a lot of jobs no one else will do.”

In Hoffman’s family literacy class, she counted only nine of 25 adult students on a Thursday night last month. Their anxiety was palpable.

All had seen the images on social media of immigrants, their hands and ankles shackled, being led onto U.S. military planes bound for Guatemala. That week, the nearby meatpacking town of Schuyler was so awash with fear over false media reports of a large-scale ICE raid that the police chief put out a statement debunking it.

The students peppered Hoffman with questions: Could ICE come and question their children at school? Could they be stopped while driving?

“I heard on the news that they are going to be targeting people with visas next, and it’s not just happening here but all over the country,” said Armando Pantoja, sitting in the front row with his wife.

He and the other students relaxed a bit when they split up into teams to play a Family Feud-style vocabulary game.

“How do you say donkey?” asked Denice Frausto, a volunteer serving as quizmaster.

“Burro!” the class responded. “How do you say carpet?” Frausto asked.

And then, “How do you say wound?”



PHOTOS BY SARAH L. VOISIN/THE WASHINGTON POST



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: Kasey Hoffman, center, hugs her son after teaching a family literacy class in O’Neill, Nebraska. After a 2018 ICE raid, a large tomato plant in town shuttered. Angelica Riz, who was detained during the 2018 ICE raid, sweeps the floors of O’Neill Elementary School. Anais Flores at La Costeñita, her family’s restaurant. Marlén Díaz, Karina Martinez, Gabriela Perez and Cristina Tudon play a vocabulary game during a literacy class.



Tiny O’Neill — population 3,500 — sits among corn and soybean farms and cattle ranches in a remote part of northeastern Nebraska not far from the South Dakota border. It’s a quiet, three-stoplight town, founded by Irish settlers, with shamrocks dotting its landscape and blooming on sidewalks, dumpsters, and a large green and white mural on the south side of town.

Another, even bigger, shamrock decorates the middle of the main intersection, a frequent meeting spot.

The surrounding county’s Latino population increased to 5 percent between 2012 and 2022, with both documented and undocumented migrants arriving to pick tomatoes, plant potatoes and feed hogs. The newcomers have been “a small but consistent part of growth in a state that doesn’t have a lot of growth,” said Josie Schafer, director of the University of Nebraska’s Center for Public Affairs Research. More than half the state’s foreign-born residents are from Latin American countries. About 13,000 settled in Nebraska last year.

For more than a decade, those who came here after illegally crossing the U.S.-Mexico border knew whom they had to see for a job — Juan Pablo Sanchez Delgado, who was undocumented himself but owned a Mexican restaurant and ethnic grocery in town. He scammed these new arrivals for years, federal prosecutors charged, amassing a fortune and luxury homes in Las Vegas by cashing the workers’ paychecks and skimming money that should have gone to taxes.

On a hot day in August 2018, ICE and Department of Homeland Security forces swarmed O’Neill to arrest Sanchez Delgado and his associates — also snagging more than 100 undocumented workers in the process.

Angelica Riz was spraying down trucks at Christensen Farms, one of the country’s biggest pork producers, when federal agents burst through the door of the garage and trained “big guns” on her and other workers.

“They yelled: ‘Stay where you are. Put your hands up!’” she said. “It was scary.”

She had a legal work permit, but her papers were at home, so she was herded onto a bus with the others — including two pregnant women — for a harrowing, two-hour drive to a detention facility in Grand Island, Nebraska. The detainees were given little water or food, according to an American Civil Liberties Union report.

In a recent statement, an ICE spokesperson said the agency acted to protect the men and women who were being exploited. Sanchez Delgado was eventually sentenced to 120 months in prison, with the judge calling it “one of the most egregious financial crimes” he had seen.

The workers of O’Neill were the collateral damage.

Once in Grand Island, Riz saw nearly all of O’Neill’s Latino residents in a tented holding facility. Her husband was among them, still in his dirty ranch clothes, which meant their two young daughters were still with a babysitter back home. Authorities had confiscated cellphones, so she had no way to check on them.

Yet unbeknownst to her, the babysitter had fled herself after dropping the children at O’Neill Elementary School — which opened to take in about a dozen students who had been separated from their parents. Employees cared for Riz’s 7-year-old and 4-month-old until she was released several hours later.

Many residents supported the workers after the raid, helping stock a food pantry and volunteering to give them rides to their hearing dates. On social media, however, others backed the federal operation. Such divisions strained fence-post conversation between neighbors.

“For months and months, there was a lot of worry in our community,” former schools superintendent Amy Shane recounted. “You didn’t know when you were visiting people in the community how they felt about what had happened.”

Riz is now a custodian at the elementary school, along with Mayra Felix, another Guatemalan immigrant who was caught up in the raid at a tomato plant. The women said the trauma of

THE WORLD

Searching for Ukrainians who have vanished into Russia

Network of people from both countries locates civilians being held in prisons, most without being charged, with no way to communicate

BY FRANCESCA EBEL,
NATALIA ABBAKUMOVA
AND ANASTACIA GALOUCHKA

MOSCOW — The last time Nadezhda Yevdokimova saw her husband was nearly three years ago, when he was dragged from their car by Russian soldiers at a checkpoint in northeastern Ukraine littered with corpses and burned-out tanks.

That winter, after months of excruciating silence, Nadezhda, now in Germany, received a call from an unknown Russian number. Her husband, Vlad, was alive, said the voice on the phone, and was being held in a prison inside Russia. The stranger had found her name and number on a tiny scrap of paper, smuggled out of Vlad's cell in a spool of thread.

Nadezhda would later discover that the man who called her that day was part of a constellation of volunteers and insiders in Russia risking their lives — occasionally for money, but usually for nothing — to pass on crucial information about the Ukrainians who have vanished into Russia's sprawling penal system.

Vlad is one of thousands of Ukrainian civilians who lawyers and activists say have been illegally swept up as Russian forces have advanced and occupied swaths of Ukrainian territory, disappearing into prisons, detention centers and torture cells across Russia and occupied Ukraine.

"I call this the biggest human rights crisis in modern Russia," said Roman, a Moscow-based lawyer who has committed himself to working on the issue since 2022. The Washington Post is not identifying Roman by his full name, like several others interviewed for this article, because of the sensitivity of the topic and risk of backlash by Russian authorities.

"What is happening here is happening on a federal scale. Far more people are becoming victims of this system, and the numbers are astronomical," he said.

A former Russian law enforcement official, who fled Russia, left her job and now helps Ukrainian families find their loved ones, said the situation is systemic.

"My own hair is standing on end from the absolute lawlessness that Russia is in right now," the former official said. "The kidnapping of civilians is an element of terror. People are so scared that relatives are disappearing and it's not clear where they are or when they're coming back."

As pressure is mounting on Ukraine and Russia to end the war, with President Donald Trump promising to soon meet with Russia's Vladimir Putin and bring peace as quickly as possible, activists say the issue of captured Ukrainian civilians in Russia must top the agenda of any negotiations — even before questions of territorial concessions and security guarantees.

"As soon as there is a ceasefire, we must resolve these urgent humanitarian issues as fast as possible," said Grigory Mikhnov-Vaytenko, a Russian priest who is working with Ukrainian and Russian authorities on the issue.

Few of these civilians have been released or exchanged, in contrast to the high-profile swaps of soldiers between the two countries. In a recent New Year's exchange, just two of the 189 prisoners returned were civilians. The central question of why Russian authorities are grabbing civilians on such a scale and why more people haven't been exchanged remains unanswered.

International governments have called on Russia to uphold its commitment to protecting civilians and investigate the abuses, but every day that the conflict drags on and Russian troops creep westward, more people are being taken.



FABIAN RITTER/DOCKS COLLECTIVE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Nadezhda Yevdokimova, whose husband, Vlad, was taken by Russian soldiers at a checkpoint in Ukraine, remains hopeful that they will be reunited. She and her children now live in Germany.

The 'frozen people'

The Ukrainian Center for Civil Liberties, a Nobel Prize-winning Ukrainian rights monitor, said in March that there were 7,000 civilians detained by Russia, while the Ukrainian government estimated almost a year later that the figure was more than double that.

Those working on the issue call the detained "the frozen people," because of a loophole that means detained Ukrainian civilians do not exist in Russia's penitentiary system before being charged. A small minority have faced criminal proceedings, often accused of terrorism or sabotage, but the rest are being held outside the legal framework, kept in prisons without any communication with the outside world.

"The persecuted are kept in terrible conditions, subjected to the harshest torture, they are not provided with effective protection. The courts do not meet the requirements of a fair trial, and are often held behind closed doors without public participation," said a recent report by First Flight, an antiwar network of Russian activists based outside the country.

The Russian Defense Ministry maintains that the civilians are being held in accordance with the Geneva Conventions, but the convention on the protection of civilians during war prohibits the taking of civilian hostages.

Civilians, international norms say, can be detained only "in accordance with the laws and regulations of the occupying power," with a guarantee of a fair trial and basic rights. None of those rules are being observed by Russian authorities, lawyers say. The Defense Ministry did not respond to



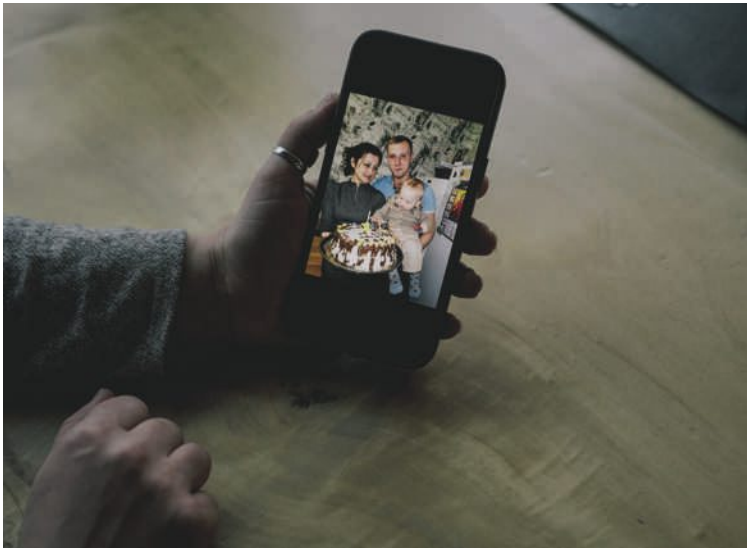
NANNA HEITMANN/MAGNUM PHOTOS FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Russian priest Grigory Mikhnov-Vaytenko is working with Russian and Ukrainian authorities on the issue of detained civilians.

The Post's request for comment.

Oleksandr Sizyonov, 42, an evangelical priest from Berdyansk in southern Ukraine, was seized by Russians soldiers in April 2022 and held incommunicado for 15 days.

When Russian soldiers came to his home at dawn to arrest him, they put a bag over his head and accused him of sabotage. But Sizyonov, who had participated in rallies against the occupation, was never officially charged.



FABIAN RITTER/DOCKS COLLECTIVE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

A picture of Vlad, Nadezhda and their son.

The detailed account Sizyonov gave The Post of the physical and psychological torture he was subjected to is similar to those documented by human rights groups. The knowledge that there was no official legal procedure to protect him broke his spirit, Sizyonov said.

"You had to undress and lie down on a cold tile floor. They'd put one metal clasp on your big toe and another one on your earlobe, and they'd electrocute you," he said. "This would happen for days. All night, until the morning."

Sizyonov remembers the psychological terror of the sounds being worse than the physical torture. "When you hear the screaming of the people who are going through this ... you understand you will never be able to forget it," he said.

Most are seized in Ukraine's occupied territories and are frequently accused of "opposing the special military operation" — Russia's euphemism for its war — and are held on suspicion of spying or protesting the occupation. Often, they are detained because of past careers in the military or police.

Those on the inside

The stranger who called Nadezhda that day, it later transpired, was a Russian prison guard working at the facility where Vlad was then incarcerated. For two months, they communicated via the messaging app Viber, and Nadezhda was finally able to establish what had happened to her husband.

Vlad had been captured by Russian troops and accused of opposing the war. He was then moved between prison colonies throughout southern Russia and near Moscow. The guard later told Nadezhda that his two sons-in-law had been drafted to fight and that one had been killed.

"He just wanted to help me as a human being," she said, adding that he never asked for compensation.

The guard appears to have been part of the unlikely cohort of people inside and outside Russia working to help detained Ukrainians, including priests, lawyers and even former members of law enforcement.

Several Ukrainians interviewed by The Post said Russian prison workers had sometimes offered to help, either out of compassion or for financial gain.

The loosely organized effort represents a rare case of Russian and Ukrainian cooperation as activist groups share information, connect relatives to their captured loved ones and communicate with each side's authorities.

Mikhnov-Vaytenko, the Russian priest, visits Ukrainian civilians awaiting trial inside occupied Crimea and Russia itself. The ones he meets are "fortunate" enough to be criminally charged and have passed through the frozen stage.

"We cannot stop this war," Mikhnov-Vaytenko said. "But I can help keep some people safe. ... The most important thing is that we remain human beings — a lot of people in Russia think like I do."

Mikhnov-Vaytenko coordinates volunteer groups across Russia and said there are hundreds helping Ukrainian refugees and prisoners. "They are from totally different backgrounds, educations and age profiles," he said. Many have Ukrainian relatives or family roots in Ukraine. Others just want to help.

Olga Romanova, a Russian journalist and activist based in Berlin, works with a group of 30 Ukrainian and Russian activists and lawyers who coordinate efforts inside Russia. She makes regular trips to Kyiv to keep the government apprised of her group's efforts. So far, they have confirmed the names of 1,600 of those in captivity.

Each month, church groups pack up bundles of food and clothing for Ukrainian prisoners. Activists coordinate one-time volunteers to drop off cash at ATMs, to keep the network of help running; the volunteers are often carefully disguised to avoid identification by the authorities. Romanova ensures volunteers have safety training and are prepared for emergency evacuations.

"The people doing this inside Russia should remain hidden," Romanova said, describing the climate of fear in wartime Russia. "In fact, there are very few people whom we know by name at all. Many work under nicknames."

Roman, the lawyer, said the "wild injustice" of Russia's invasion is deeply personal. He spends his days collecting information on missing Ukrainians and filing requests to the Investigative Committee, Russia's top prosecutorial authority, to initiate legal searches for the vanished people.

"I believe that I must do something to counteract this or correct the consequences of this tragedy," he said.

Two months ago, Nadezhda received another unexpected call. This time, it was from a recently returned Ukrainian prisoner of war who had found her contact through volunteers. He told her that he had shared a cell with Vlad for a year in a prison colony south of Moscow.

Vlad was still alive, he said — but he had lost all his teeth after several rounds of torture, including beatings with a shovel. Neither Ukrainian nor Russian authorities responded to The Post's requests for comment on the process of exchanges and the issue of captured civilians.

Nadezhda copes by telling everyone she meets her husband's story, sending requests and looking for clues.

"We were so in love. Really, that was real love," she said. "So I believe — and I am waiting for him."

DIGEST

SUDAN UAE seeks ceasefire; army rejects proposal

The United Arab Emirates called on Tuesday for a ceasefire in Sudan during the coming holy month of Ramadan, a UAE official said, a call rejected by the Sudanese army, as the country's civil war approaches the two-year mark.

The army considers the UAE to be an aggressor of the war, accusing it of arming the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces, accusations U.N. experts

and U.S. lawmakers have said are credible.

The United Arab Emirates denies these charges.

The war in Sudan has created the world's largest humanitarian catastrophe, with more than 12 million people displaced, half the population hungry, and increasing fragmentation of the impoverished country.

The RSF is engaged in an assault on the city of al-Fashir, the army's last remaining stronghold in the Darfur region, as it loses ground to the army in the capital, Khartoum.

— Reuters

GERMANY Scholz, Merz clash ahead of election

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz accused his main challenger in the upcoming election of "constant about-turns," while Friedrich Merz, the opposition leader and front-runner, accused Scholz of leaving behind an economic "disaster" as parliament met Tuesday for the last time before the country's Feb. 23 election.

Polls give Merz's center-right Union bloc the lead, with

Scholz's center-left Social Democrats well behind and showing little sign so far of narrowing the gap.

Scholz told lawmakers that his governing coalition faced enormous challenges from Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the ensuing energy crisis.

— Associated Press

TURKEY Opposition-district officials detained

Turkish police on Tuesday detained 10 senior officials of

Istanbul district municipalities over alleged links to Kurdish militants, the state-run Anadolu Agency reported, widening a crackdown on opposition-held city districts.

The detainees include the deputy mayors of the districts of Kartal and Atasehir and eight district municipal council members, Anadolu reported.

— Associated Press

A doctor in Berlin who was first arrested in August on suspicion of killing four elderly patients is now suspected of killing a total of 10 patients and, in five cases,

trying to cover up the evidence by starting fires, investigators said Tuesday. The unidentified doctor was initially suspected of killing four patients in June and July and then attempting to set fire to their apartments.

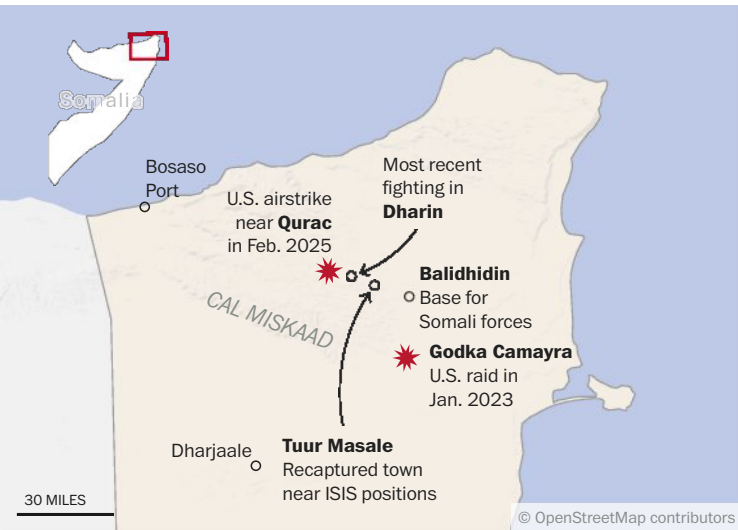
Spain's leftist government announced Tuesday that it will give year-long residence and work permits to about 25,000 migrants affected by last year's deadly floods in the east of the country. More than 220 people died because of the flash floods in late October.

— From news services



PHOTOS BY CAROLYN VAN HOUTEN/THE WASHINGTON POST

Puntland soldiers gather on Jan. 25 near a cave where Islamic State fighters lived until they were flushed out. The militant group has entrenched itself in one of the world’s harshest, most inhospitable places.



In mountains of Somalia, a global terrorism hub

SOMALIA FROM A1

declared caliphate in the Middle East.

On Feb. 1, President Donald Trump ordered the first airstrike of his new presidency, against senior Islamic State commanders in northern Somalia. A U.S. intelligence official, speaking like others in this story on the condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive matters, said the strike targeted a cell responsible for planning external attacks, including against American interests and their allies.

Beyond the strike, the Trump administration has not detailed its plans for Somalia. Africom said it was unable to comment on future policy.

For decades, Washington has sought to prop up the government in Mogadishu, but Somalia remains a fractured state. Political divisions have hampered the fight to claw back swaths of the south from the al-Qaeda-aligned militant group al-Shabab and, more recently, allowed the Islamic State to establish a foothold in the north.

The Islamic State in Somalia broke away from al-Shabab in 2015; its secretive, henna-bearded leader, Abdulqadir Mumin, is now the Islamic State’s global caliph, the U.S. military says. Unlike its rival al-Shabab, the Islamic State has not focused on conquering territory in Somalia; its aspirations are larger. Burrowed into the Miskad mountains, on the very tip of the Horn of Africa, it has built an international terrorism hub.

In its early days, the Somali branch received money from Iraq and Syria, but soon found its own revenue streams, raking in millions of dollars each year by extorting money from local businesses. Those who resisted were fire-bombed.

Before long, al-Karrar, the Islamic State’s regional financial office, had established a nerve center in Puntland, funneling money

to militants across multiple regions, in countries ranging from Turkey to South Africa, according to U.S. officials and U.N. investigators. A January 2023 raid by U.S. Special Forces on a cave complex in northern Somalia killed Islamic State financier Bilal al-Sudani. He had sent cash to Islamic State-Khorasan, the Afghan branch responsible for the 2021 Kabul airport bombing that killed 13 U.S. soldiers and at least 170 Afghans.

The Islamic State has also become a more sophisticated fighting force, employing suicide drones, long-distance snipers and bombs. Last year, its fighters defeated al-Shabab after more than a year of bloody battle, vastly expanding the group’s territory in Puntland.

The region’s new military offensive — planned for months and launched on Jan. 2 — was delayed while Puntland tried to negotiate support from international partners, including the United States. But the political transition in Washington hamstrung talks, according to Puntland security officials, and Trump’s pause on foreign funding has complicated them further.

An Africom official said the Pentagon was monitoring the operation but not providing any support. Puntland says it also gets no help from the Somali state, which is Africom’s main point of contact.

Isolated but determined, Puntland drew up plans to go after the militants in their mountain redoubts. But the Islamic State struck first.

Deadly tactics

In the early hours of New Year’s Eve, the Somali branch sent 12 suicide bombers into the town of Dharjaale. They targeted military vehicles and blew up a cluster of nearby homes where top military and political figures were resting.

“Our men in the truck — we only found their bones,” said Mohamed Abdulhakim Salad, who witnessed the attack.



A man accused of working for the Islamic State stands with his face covered for a move between buildings at a prison in Garowe, the capital of Puntland. The region’s prisons hold more than a dozen men who maintain they were tricked into joining the militant group.



The prisoners include men from Yemen, Morocco, Ethiopia and Tanzania. “They used us like enslaved people, digging out caves and bringing water,” one prisoner said of the Islamic State commanders.

None of the attackers were Somali. There were four Tanzanians, two Moroccans and two Saudis alongside an Ethiopian, a Libyan, a Tunisian and a Yemeni, the Islamic State said in a statement. The Post cross-checked their portraits with photos of the dead at the scene. The Tunisian, known as Abu Zubayr al-Tunisi, previously led a unit attacking police in Iraq before returning home to target Tunisian forces, said Mohamed

Mubarak, the head of Puntland’s security coordination office, citing intelligence from his counterparts in Tunis.

Officials here say it was the first suicide bombing carried out by foreigners. One wounded attacker, begging for mercy, waited until nine soldiers were around him before blowing himself up, witnesses said.

In January, troops said they killed a woman who shot two sol-

diers — the first time a female combat fighter from an Islamist group has been seen in Somalia.

“We have not taken many prisoners,” Mubarak said grimly, citing other incidents in which the Islamic State planted bombs on dead fighters or used its own wounded to set up ambushes. Overstretched explosives teams rarely have time to defuse and examine suicide vests or bomb-making labs, Mubarak said. The

30-man unit has lost 27 members in the past five years, often in targeted killings.

Puntland soldiers and logistics convoys have been targeted dozens of times by drones, a tactic commonly used by militants in Syria and Iraq but new to Somalia.

Footage from captured drones shared with The Post showed that some were equipped with thermal-imaging cameras, allowing for nighttime attacks. One model was identified by the risk management company Vates Somalia as retailing for upwards of \$9,000.

The expensive drones can carry and release up to four separate munitions. Cheaper self-detonating versions explode into trucks, water tankers or crowds of troops. Injured soldier Abdiqani Muse Warsame, recovering in the hospital after a recent attack, said drones had repeatedly targeted his unit at night.

“We just have our naked eyes and our guns to shoot them,” he said.

Foreign fighters

Puntland’s prisons hold more than a dozen men who maintain they were tricked into joining the Islamic State. Some of their claims — like that of a Yemeni man caught during a failed attempt to blow up a police checkpoint in the port city of Bosaso a couple of nights before — didn’t add up.

“I was in a knife fight,” he said sullenly, despite the shrapnel wounds on his face and body and the confiscated evidence that spilled across the table: a pistol,



PHOTOS BY CAROLYN VAN HOUTEN/THE WASHINGTON POST

Puntland soldiers stand at the mouth of the cave where militants once lived. Troops have come under attack from drones, mortars, rocket-propelled grenades, machine guns, car bombs and suicide attackers.



Ahmed Barkhadele Abdullahi, a Puntland soldier injured in battle, at a hospital in the port city of Bosaso. Senior officers say they have committed everything they have to the fight but still have basic needs: drone jammers, bomb detectors and night-vision equipment.

small improvised explosives, and a constellation of SIM cards that included a Thuraya satellite phone and Omani and Saudi numbers.

Also in custody are six Moroccans, who say they were recruited in 2023 from the city of Fes. They described an elaborate journey: driving overland through multiple countries, flying to Addis Ababa and sneaking across the Ethiopian border to Somalia. They traveled through the mountains for days, they said, often in the company of other foreigners, including men from Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, Sudan and Ethiopia.

Each swore they were promised jobs and were shocked when they were suddenly surrounded by armed men. They said they were taken to a large cave that functioned as a reception area before being split up into smaller groups. The instructors mostly wore masks, they said, but did not appear to be Somali.

“We trained with Kalashnikovs, in a group of around 30 people — Algerians, Moroccans, Tunisians, Somalis and two Palestinians,” said one of the Moroccans. Like other prisoners, he spoke on the condition of anonymity for fear of reprisals.

“They used us like enslaved people, digging out caves and bringing water,” said a third prisoner, who said he joined a group of about 80 men upon arriving in the region. “They used to talk about jihad, but most of the time we were too tired to listen,” he said.

The Moroccans were recruited online and in person. All had

skills. One had an electronics business; another sold phones and fixed cars; there was a carpenter, a lawyer and an alfalfa farmer. All said they had sneaked away from the group and surrendered to local authorities, accounts corroborated by Puntland officials.

“We had to unload food from camels and carry it into the mountains,” said one prisoner. “I was afraid because there were four guards with night-vision goggles.” That night, he and a companion made a break for it, he said, running through the desert until they collapsed.

A young Ethiopian prisoner said he was only 15 when he and two other young friends had left the Oromia region, stricken by drought and torn apart by a bloody insurgency. They sneaked into the mountains of northern Somalia two years ago, he said, hoping to find jobs in the Middle East.

But they were intercepted by the Islamic State, he said, and an Oromo-speaking imam tried to persuade them to become fighters. The young Ethiopian said he was eventually trained and deployed to an outpost to fight al-Shabab, where he secretly stockpiled rations, then deserted.

Three Tanzanian men, brought blindfolded from an intelligence facility and blinking in the fluorescent light, said they’d been tricked into joining the Islamic State in the past 18 months. Each said they could identify the men who recruited them by promising jobs, all connected to the same fish market in Zanzibar.

“On the first day we were told the rules — no talking, no phones, no bright colors so you avoid the drones,” one of the men said.

A Puntland intelligence officer explained how recruits had been targeted in waves. Poor Oromo migrants hoping to get smuggled to the Middle East were preyed on early to boost manpower, he said, and many had indeed been conscripted against their will.

More-targeted recruitment began in 2022 as the Islamic State looked for men with specific skill sets, the intelligence official said, such as Syrians and Tunisians with expertise in drones and bombmaking.

A mountain stronghold

In 2020, months after losing its last territory in the Middle East, the Islamic State restructured its African operations, placing affiliates in Mozambique’s Cabo Delgado province and the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo under al-Karrar, the Somali financial hub. Both groups, which have received funding from the Somali branch, have massacred thousands of civilians.

A 2021 conviction of an Islamic State financier in Mogadishu traced \$400,000 sent from Puntland to Uganda, South Africa and Congo. Funds have also been sent onward from South Africa to Mozambique, the United Arab Emirates, Tanzania, Mozambique and Kenya, according to research by the Bridgeway Foundation, a Texas-based group focused on global conflict.

At the center of an international

financial web, the Islamic State in Somalia has entrenched itself in one of the world’s harshest, most inhospitable places. Boulder-strewn scrub often forces trucks into single-file tracks — a gift to makers of roadside bombs, which have killed many soldiers and blasted deep craters in the ruts.

Touring recently captured positions with Puntland forces, Post reporters saw what appeared to be a machine workshop. Tools and car parts were strewn across several small rooms that were dug into the mountainside and reinforced with cement and tires. Semicircles of rocks formed defensive positions along the ridge above, which the soldiers took turns blasting with an antiaircraft gun.

“This road up here leads nowhere except other [Islamic State] bases,” a Somali officer said, pointing to smooth vehicle tracks that meandered away. “They built it themselves.”

In another location, a decomposing body lay outside a cave that was fortified with sandbags and had a cistern carved into it. Low-hanging rocks at the back obscured a small crawl space that led to another room lined with tarpaulins. There were electric wires dangling from the ceiling; the ground was littered with partly burned papers and crushed computer parts.

“Daesh! Daesh!” exclaimed the soldiers in the cave, using the Arabic acronym for the Islamic State. One pointed to the dead man’s braids — a common Oromo style that is almost unheard-of in Somalia.



lia. The dead man had some detonators on him, the soldier said, but no one knew where they had gone.

“It’s a big problem,” Mubarak said with a sigh. “People are taking things as war booty.”

Back at headquarters, officers displayed 15 phones, including a clutch of smartphones, that had been recently seized. One SIM they had looked at was linked to about \$180,000 in payments, said Brig. Gen. Jamal Arab Yusuf Jibril, director general of the Puntland Intelligence Agency. Some phones showed calls to Mongolia and the United States. But evidence was being lost, he said; soldiers sometimes found a smartphone, threw away the SIM and put in their own.

Missing partners

Senior officers in Puntland say they have committed everything they have to the fight against the Islamic State — even the internal security minister is present at the forward operating base in Balidhadin, barking out orders from behind his sunglasses and gesturing with his cane — but they say they need help from allies.

No one wants foreign boots on the ground, but drone jammers, bomb detectors and night-vision equipment would go a long way, said Gen. Abdirahman Mohamed Jama, head of the Puntland Maritime Police Forces.

“Yesterday, we had 10 [improvised explosive devices] on our route,” he said.

Citizens are donating food and taking up arms, but officials worry that public opinion could turn if the death toll keeps climbing.

Puntland has just one two-person helicopter for medevacs, which it paid for itself, and the fighting is about to get a lot bloodier as soldiers push up a wide valley believed to house the Islamic State’s most fortified positions.

Last week, soldiers came under attack from mortars, rocket-propelled grenades, and machine guns mounted on either side of the canyon. Officials said nearly 60 militants were killed in the fighting, which also left dozens of local soldiers dead and wounded. The tiny helicopter buzzed back and forth all day as ambulances jolted painfully over the rocky ground.

On Tuesday, the Islamic State attacked Puntland soldiers deep in the valley with car bombs and suicide attackers on motorbikes. Heavy losses were reported on both sides.

“We have been talking to the Americans about this offensive for months — about air support, medical supplies, intelligence sharing, military supplies — but none of it has happened,” Mubarak said. “We lost a lot more people than we would have if we had moved earlier.”

The UAE supplied some equipment and has carried out a couple of airstrikes. Regional neighbors have donated small amounts of materiel. It’s not nearly enough, according to Puntland President Said Abdullahi Deni, who spoke to Post reporters at the airport before sending off wounded soldiers for treatment abroad.

“We are fighting a global war alone,” he said.



Flags are arranged for the 2023 U.N. climate summit in Dubai. The United Nations says the world is on track for “debilitating” warming.

Major emitters blow off U.N. climate deadline

China, India, E.U. and more miss date to submit new national-level plans

BY CHICO HARLAN

Amid record heat and intensifying floods, U.N. officials have for several years reminded countries of a crucial looming opportunity to improve the planet’s climate trajectory — by submitting new national-level plans for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. “Seize this chance,” U.N. Secretary General António Guterres said last month.

But when the due date arrived Monday for submitting those climate plans, the vast majority of countries — including major emitters such as China, India and the European Union — missed the deadline.

The plans, known in climate jargon as “nationally determined contributions,” are the building blocks of the Paris agreement. Countries are supposed to improve and resubmit those plans every five years.

But the missed deadline stands as another example of how the international framework for addressing climate change — which depends on voluntary action — is wobbling.

Right-wing political shifts in democracies are driving climate downward as a priority. International climate summits are increasingly riven by mistrust between wealthy and poorer countries. The United States is the world’s largest historical greenhouse gas polluter, but under President Donald Trump it has pulled out of the Paris agreement, paused most climate funding, and left a leadership vacuum in addressing one of the world’s most complicated problems.

The United States did submit a climate plan, but it came in the final weeks of the Biden administration, raising doubts about its viability.

Niklas Höhne, a co-founder of the NewClimate Institute and contributor to U.N. emissions reports, said a cost-of-living crisis and several wars have dragged the focus away from the climate.

“So climate is lower than it should be,” he said. “It’s disappointing. The climate crisis doesn’t go away if you just ignore it. But right now politicians are more shortsighted.”

The past decade has seen the 10 hottest years on record.

“Where’s the urgency? Some of the world’s largest economies and biggest emitters are missing in action,” said Tracy Carty, who tracks global climate politics at Greenpeace International. “There is no time to waste. Lack of cli-

mate action is costing lives.”

Giza Gaspar-Martins, an Angolan who helped negotiate the Paris agreement and a former chair of the negotiating group for the least-developed countries, called it “normal” that countries would have an increasingly hard time preparing their policies. The plans require successively deeper and more sweeping changes.

“I’d rather have countries think long and hard” about how to construct strong pledges, Gaspar-Martins said, “rather than having them just submit something for the sake of submitting.”

Carbon Brief, a news outlet that focuses on climate issues, said that countries representing 83 percent of global emissions had missed the deadline.

Simon Stiell, the executive secretary of the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change, said any documents submitted by September could still be concluded in an assessment of the progress. There is no penalty for missing the deadline.

He called the documents “among the most important policy documents governments will produce this century.”

“So taking a bit more time to ensure these plans are first-rate makes sense,” Stiell said.

In a LinkedIn post, Stiell said on Monday that more than 170 countries are working on new national climate plans, with the ma-

jority expected to be submitted later this year.

The plans would cover the period up to 2035, when the United Nations has said that emissions must fall 60 percent — compared with 2019 levels — to meet the most ambitious targets of the Paris agreement. At the moment, the world is on track for a temperature rise of between 2.6 and 3.1 degrees Celsius (4.7 to 5.6 degrees Fahrenheit), which the United Nations says would be “debilitating.”

The E.U. has portrayed itself as a global leader on climate issues, but it was slowed by a months-long leadership negotiating process that followed June’s parliamentary elections. An E.U. spokeswoman for the climate commissioner did not respond to a request for comment.

Of all the climate plans, China’s may be the most crucial. The country now accounts for the highest share of emissions, though its pollution levels may have already peaked, some experts say. Given the size of the country and its level of industrialization, how quickly it brings down emissions will be critical to the global trajectory. China still burns more coal than the rest of the world combined.

On Monday a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman said that work on the new climate pledge is ongoing and that it would be submitted in “due course.”

Russia pounds natural gas sector in Ukraine, forcing power outages

At conference this week, U.S. officials will discuss possible plans to end war

BY DAVID L. STERN

KYIV — Russian forces pummeled Ukraine overnight Tuesday with missiles and drones, damaging gas facilities and causing temporary electricity cutoffs, Kyiv officials said — the latest mass aerial attack on the country, as U.S. officials travel to Europe this week to discuss possible plans to bring the war to an end.

As the bombardment was ongoing, Ukraine’s state energy distributor Ukrenergo introduced emergency electricity outages in some of the country’s regions, which it lifted once the attacks ended and “the situation in the power system stabilized,” the company said on Telegram.

Ukraine’s state-owned energy company Naftogaz said that the nation’s energy infrastructure sustained a major attack and that production facilities in the Poltava region were damaged. The company said that there were no casualties and that it was “implementing measures to stabilize gas supplies in Poltava region,” without providing further details.

Russia “carried out a combined strike with various types of air, ground and sea-based missiles on gas production facilities in the Poltava region — a total of up to 19 cruise, ballistic and guided aircraft missiles,” the Ukrainian air force said in a post on Telegram. It added that over a hundred drones were also involved in attacks around the country.

The assault took place days before Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky leads a delegation to the Munich Security Con-

ference, where he is expected to meet with top Washington officials.

The U.S. delegation will include Vice President JD Vance, Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Keith Kellogg, President Donald Trump’s special envoy for Ukraine and Russia.

According to Zelensky’s team, he will be meeting with the U.S. vice president on the sidelines of the conference. Ukraine’s full-scale war with Russia, now three years old, will be a central topic of discussion at the conference.

Ukrainian forces are struggling to hold on to strategic strongholds in eastern Ukraine and a small portion of Russia’s Kursk region, where they staged a surprise incursion last year.

Trump is pushing for an end to the war, which he says is costing U.S. taxpayers too much money.

Air raid sirens sounded shortly after midnight in Kyiv, and the attack lasted until the early morning. Kyiv officials did not report any damage or casualties in the capital.

For their part, Ukrainian forces struck an oil refinery in Russia’s southern Saratov region “involved in supplying the Russian occupation army,” Ukraine’s general staff said in a Telegram post. The facility “produces gasoline, fuel oil, diesel fuel; in total, more than 20 types of oil products.”

Saratov Gov. Roman Busargin said in a post of his own that Russian air defense forces had “liquidated” drones and that there was “damage at an industrial plant” but that there were “no preliminary injuries.”

Later he said that “a fire at the industrial plant in Saratov after a drone attack” had been “extinguished.” He did not provide further details.

Anastasia Galouchka contributed to this report.



Practice bombs dating to the World War II era are excavated at Scotts Park in Wooler, England, in January.

Pope rebukes Trump over deportation policy

BY SABRINA RODRIGUEZ

Pope Francis sharply rebuked President Donald Trump’s policy of mass deportation of undocumented immigrants and urged American Catholics not to lean into anti-immigrant sentiment in an open letter to U.S. Catholic bishops Tuesday.

“I exhort all the faithful of the Catholic Church, and all men and women of good will, not to give in to narratives that discriminate against and cause unnecessary suffering to our migrant and refugee brothers and sisters,” Francis wrote in a lengthy letter.

The letter served as a strong rejection of Trump’s treatment of migrants, with the pope emphasizing that “an authentic rule of law is verified precisely in the dignified treatment that all people deserve, especially the poorest and most marginalized.”

Francis also appeared to take aim at Vice President JD Vance’s recent use of a medieval Catholic concept to justify and defend the Trump administration’s deportation policy.

In his letter, the pontiff offered a different reading of “ordo amoris” in an apparent correction of Vance’s understanding of theology.

“Christian love is not a concentric expansion of interests that little by little extend to other persons and groups,” he wrote. “The true ordo amoris that must be promoted is that which we discover by meditating constantly on the parable of the ‘Good Samaritan,’ that is, by meditating on the love that builds a fraternity open to all, without exception.”

Trump’s border czar, Tom Homan, who is overseeing the mass deportation efforts, dismissed the pontiff’s criticism, calling on Francis to stay out of U.S. national security issues.

“Concentrate on the Catholic



Pope Francis waves to a crowd from St. Peter’s Basilica at the Vatican as he delivers a Christmas Day blessing in 2022.

Church,” Homan, a Catholic, said in a message to the pope during an interview on Newsmax. “You’ve got a lot of problems right there in the Catholic Church. You have enough to fix in your own home. Leave the border stuff to us. We know what we’re doing.”

There has long been friction between the pope and Trump, particularly over the president’s treatment of migrants. During Trump’s first candidacy in 2016, Francis said Trump was “not Christian” for his plan to build a U.S.-Mexico border wall to deter migrants. Most recently, the pontiff called Trump’s plan to mass deport migrants “a disgrace” ahead of the inauguration.

And days earlier, the Vatican named one of the leading liberal prelates in the United States — known for his support of migrants and the LGBTQ community — to run the Washington-area archdiocese, a move some viewed as sending a message to the then-incoming Trump administration.

Ahead of the 2024 election, Francis described the choice for Americans as the “lesser of two

evils” — noting Trump’s anti-migrant policies and the abortion rights stance of Vice President Kamala Harris. Ultimately, American Catholic voters backed Trump by a 20-point margin, according to exit polls. It was a reversal from 2020, when Joe Biden, who would become the nation’s second Catholic president, won Catholic voters by a five-point margin.

Massimo Faggioli, a Catholic theologian at Villanova University, said part of the letter was a clear “text message to Vance, or a subtweet,” as the pontiff grapples with how “Catholicism has become part of Trumpism.”

“There are some bishops here ... who need to figure out whether they are following JD Vance’s orders or they’re faithful to the Vatican,” Faggioli said.

The Vatican, he added, wants to “make it clear that Vance’s Catholicism is not global Catholicism.”

The Vatican and the Trump White House are also now facing tensions as the administration is moving to gut funding that religious groups have long used to help migrants. Vance has openly questioned whether the Catholic Church’s substantial, decades-long work with migrants is driven by a desire for money, criticism that has dismayed Catholic leaders.

The Catholic bishops’ organization works with immigrants in different ways — mostly through Catholic Charities. It contracts with the federal government to resettle refugees who have been vetted by the U.S. government. It also — like many other aid groups and municipalities — receives public funds, including during the first Trump term, to help people at the border who need basic services such as shelter and food.

Catholic Charities agencies across the country are facing layoffs amid uncertainty over the future of funding. Catholic Relief Services, the international sister organization founded by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, is the top recipient of funding from the U.S. Agency for International Development and has been forced to shut down programs funded by the agency and begin to lay off staff members as the administration looks to shut down USAID.

In his letter, Francis, who has made migrant rights a guiding light of his papacy, also warned that criminalizing immigrants over their legal status deprives them of their dignity and “will end badly.”

“The true common good is promoted when society and government, with creativity and strict respect for the rights of all — as I have affirmed on numerous occasions — welcomes, protects, promotes and integrates the most fragile, unprotected and vulnerable,” Francis wrote.

Stefano Pitrelli and Michelle Boorstein contributed to this report.

Over 170 WWII-era bombs found in U.K.

BY KELSEY ABLES

More than 170 World War II-era practice bombs have been found beneath a playground in England during a renovation of the site, reflecting the long legacy of a war that ended nearly 80 years ago.

The first two bombs were discovered last month by workers digging foundations at Scotts Park in the northeastern town of Wooler, about an hour’s drive north of Newcastle, the BBC reported. The British Defense Ministry said a full survey of the site is needed, and in just two days contractors found 155 bombs in a 21-square-foot area.

“It soon became apparent that the scale of the problem was far greater than anyone had anticipated,” the local council said in a news release.

The council described the ordnance as “practice bombs” but stressed that “they do still carry a charge and given the numbers involved, need to be recovered by professionals.”

A total of 176 bombs have been discovered so far, according to the BBC. Wooler Councillor Mark Mather of the Conservative Party told the British broadcaster that only about one-third of the park has been cleared and that “we could still find another pit with more bombs.”

“It’s quite something to think the children have been playing on bombs, and it’s been a really challenging situation,” he said.

Mather told Sky News that the devices weigh between nine and 11½ pounds, and he said the council plans to move ahead with the new playground after receiving a certification that the area is safe.

Andrew Stewart, an honorary

professor at the Australian National University who studies World War II, noted that such training rounds would have been used by the Home Guard, a civil defense organization trained to ward off a German invasion that never came.

Today, they “could still cause quite a serious injury” if incorrectly handled, he said. But because the practice rounds are likely to contain only a small projectile charge and do not include any high explosives, he said he is “more worried about other caches, other dumps of weapons that were perhaps more lethal,” being found elsewhere.

It’s not uncommon to stumble upon unexploded ordnance in Britain. A 2018 BBC report cited the British Defense Ministry as saying that it had been involved in making safe some 450 German bombs from World War II over the past eight years — or about 60 bombs per year.

Last February, British military personnel removed a 1,100-pound World War II bomb from the garden of a residential property in Plymouth, a city in southwestern England, prompting what the government described as “one of the largest evacuation operations since the end of World War Two.”

Stewart said the practice bombs in Wooler were probably discarded in haste by soldiers eager to get home. “There was a lot of exhaustion at the end of the war,” he said, noting that soldiers stationed in a slightly remote location probably buried the devices thinking they would not harm anyone.

But, Stewart added, “as urban expansion continues, more of these legacies will be stumbled upon.”

As Trump pursues Gaza takeover, he and Netanyahu warn Hamas on hostages

JORDAN FROM AI

specify how.

“We’re going to take it, we’re going to hold it, we’re going to cherish it,” he told reporters. Asked how the United States would claim the Palestinian territory, Trump cited “U.S. authority.”

The Jordanian king tried hard not to be pulled into the discussion, wary of alienating a U.S. leader who greenlights at least \$1.5 billion in aid for Jordan every year. But with the eyes of his own nation upon him, Abdullah also could not acquiesce to Trump’s demand to take in Gazans.

Any response to taking Gaza refugees would need to be multi-lateral and not rest solely on Jordan, the king said.

“This is something that we as Arabs will be coming to the United States with something that we’re going to talk about later,” Abdullah said.

Later he was more forceful: “I reiterated Jordan’s steadfast position against the displacement of Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank,” he wrote on X after the meeting.

He said the focus must be on finding a solution that works for all parties, but he demurred on discussing Trump’s demands, saying he wanted to wait until Egyptians could present their own ideas. He also said that Jordan will take in 2,000 children from Gaza, a move that Trump praised and said came as a surprise to U.S. leaders.

But peace efforts seemed to be slipping rather than advancing, as both Trump and Netanyahu warned that the war would resume Saturday should Hamas not release hostages.

“They want to play tough guys, but we’ll see how tough they are,” Trump said, declining to specify what actions he would take.

A day earlier, Trump demanded that Hamas release all its hostages, “not in drips and drabs, not two and one and three and four and two.” The slow pace of releases is built into the structure of the deal.

Netanyahu said in an address Tuesday that Israel will “gather forces inside and around the Gaza Strip” in preparation to resume the war if hostages held by Hamas



President Donald Trump meets with Jordan's King Abdullah II in the Oval Office at the White House on Tuesday.

are not returned Saturday.

Hamas said Monday that it will delay the hostage release “until further notice,” accusing Israeli forces of ceasefire violations, including Israeli shelling and gunfire in Gaza, along with an insufficient flow of aid.

Egypt, whose foreign minister met with senior Trump officials in Washington on Monday, has proposed a plan that it wants to become a unified Arab position. It calls for the formation of a committee of Palestinian technocrats, with no connection to any of the parties in the region, to run Gaza and oversee reconstruction projects with security provided by trained Palestinian police.

It differs from other Arab plans that have been more in line with that proposed by the Biden administration to turn Gaza governance over to the West Bank’s

Palestinian Authority.

The 16-month war in Gaza started after Hamas attacked Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, killing about 1,200 people and taking about 250 people hostage. It has led to the deaths of more than 47,000 Gaza residents, according to the Gaza Health Ministry, which doesn’t distinguish between combatants and civilians but says the majority of the dead are women and children.

Trump on Tuesday continued to talk about his approach to a Gaza takeover as a real estate deal, invoking his decades as a developer.

“I think it’s going to be something that’s going to be magnificent for the Palestinians. ... They’re going to be in love with it, too,” Trump said. “I did very well with real estate. I can tell you about real estate. They’re going to

be in love.”

He said that he didn’t need to threaten to cut off aid to Jordan and Egypt to persuade them to take in Gaza’s residents, even though the leaders of both countries have expressed opposition to the idea.

“We do, we contribute a lot of money to Jordan and to Egypt, by the way, a lot to both, but I don’t have to threaten that. I think we’re above that,” Trump said.

Jordan is a long-standing American ally, heavily dependent on U.S. aid and also a friendly host to U.S. intelligence agencies operating in the region. But over the past week as Trump has pushed his plan, Abdullah’s options have looked increasingly impossible.

The Hashemite kingdom is already about half Palestinian, having taken in waves of refugees

over generations of Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Any further influx would probably destabilize Jordan’s already shaky economy and political situation.

Defying Trump could risk the patronage of Jordan’s major supporter. Reflecting Abdullah’s tricky situation, the king was keeping a low profile during his trip to Washington, trying to avoid moments where he could be twisted into taking a public position on the issue.

“The king has an impossible circle to square,” said Aaron David Miller, a former Middle East negotiator for the State Department who is now at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. “He needs to find a way to say no to Trump elegantly and in a way that doesn’t fundamentally undermine his bilateral relationship.”

Since unveiling his surprise plan for Gaza following a meeting with Netanyahu last week, Trump has doubled and tripled down on it, despite subordinates’ efforts to partly walk it back by saying any displacement of Palestinians would be temporary.

Trump, instead, has said that the Palestinians in Gaza would not be allowed back because their new homes elsewhere would be so attractive.

“We think people are going to be very happy and thrilled,” Trump said Tuesday.

The idea is explosive for a long list of reasons, first and foremost because many of Gaza’s residents have no interest in abandoning their land. Critics have declared that any forced expulsion would meet the definition of ethnic cleansing. Gaza has about 2.2 million residents.

Jordanian leaders, meanwhile, have been involved for more than in a year in a painstaking effort to restore peace to Gaza and to push for an eventual Palestinian state — a step that would be imperiled if Palestinians are permanently moved out of Gaza.

If Trump cut off funding to Jordan, the kingdom would have to turn elsewhere. Saudi Arabia is one potential backer, although the two countries have a tense history. Some Jordanians have also suggested that Russia or China could step in — a development that would be a setback for U.S. efforts to curtail their global influence.

Some Middle East experts have struggled to understand Trump’s broader strategy in his vow to take over Gaza, if there is one.

“In one fell swoop, he’s tethered the United States to a proposal which at best is voluntary-slash-forced transfer and, worst, ethnic cleansing,” Miller said. “He’s undermined relations with the Egyptians and the Jordanians. He’s validated the fantasies of the Israeli right wing, and he sent a signal to [Russian President Vladimir] Putin and [Chinese President] Xi [Jinping] that, you know, hey, I can announce the fact that I’m taking over territory X without any justification now.”

Karen DeYoung contributed to this report.



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ECONOMY & BUSINESS

TECH FRIEND

This app is turbocharging constituents’ calls to Congress

5 Calls and similar tools make contacting lawmakers as convenient as ordering a pizza

BY SHIRA OVIDE

Nick O'Neill says his wife woke him at an “ungodly hour” one recent morning. The app the couple founded, 5 Calls, was melting down under a crush of people contacting their members of Congress.

A flurry of White House executive orders and overhauls of federal bureaucracy are making civic engagement great again. People are trading tips on social media about 5 Calls and other apps that help them express their views to elected representatives — and they’re jamming Congress’s phone lines.

While online campaigns spurring calls (or faxes) to lawmakers aren’t new, this surge of congressional contact is on another level. “They are absolutely being overwhelmed by the volume of calls,” said Anne Meeker, deputy director of Popvox Foundation, a nonpartisan group focused on social and technology changes in citizen engagement.

Experienced congressional staffers have been enlisted to take calls, which is usually a task for junior staff or interns, Meeker said.

The popularity of 5 Calls shows that Americans used to the ease of apps like Uber Eats are bringing those expectations to their interactions with elected officials. Government-contact apps and social media let people quickly channel anger into action, and turbocharge it by asking others to do the same.

Overcoming phone shyness

O'Neill and his wife, Rebecca Kaufman, started 5 Calls eight years ago at the beginning of the first Trump administration. The app offers suggested scripts on liberal policy priorities and lets you tap to dial numbers of your congressional representatives.

The app has had previous popularity surges, such as during Israel’s war in the Gaza Strip, but the new Trump administration has set usage records.

O'Neill said that roughly 700,000 calls to Congress were made through the app in the past

week. On some days since Donald Trump took office, 5 Calls has been among the most-downloaded iPhone apps in the United States, according to research firm Sensor Tower. And in a recent Instagram story, Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-New York) urged people to “hop on 5 Calls.”

Leslie Gaar, a 45-year-old writer in Austin, said she has used the 5 Calls app to make a dozen or more calls to her members of Congress to protest the Elon Musk-led push to cut jobs and programs at government agencies. (O'Neill said that has been the top topic by far for people using 5 Calls.)

“I don’t even want to order a pizza” by phone, Gaar said, but 5 Calls made it easy to dial up lawmakers. She is also following 5 Calls social media posts with the numbers of calls made through the app. “That especially made me feel like I was making a difference,” Gaar said.

Meeker said that from her conversations with congressional staff, many calls are from people furious about Trump administration actions or asking for personal help with government funding freezes. Supporters of the administration also are calling lawmakers to urge them to approve Trump’s Cabinet nominees.

Meeker said elected officials are coming to terms with ways that technology can boost, or potentially undermine, their relationships with voters.

Some organizations have promising technology-aided ideas to improve constituent town halls, which tend to be poorly attended and dominated by a few loud voices. On the flip side, Meeker said technology can erode lawmakers’ trust in public input. One group used AI-generated voices in calls to legislators that sounded like children who died as a result of gun violence.

Tips for outreach to lawmakers

It’s not necessarily true that phone calls are more effective than emails. Meeker said con-



WASHINGTON POST ILLUSTRATION; ISTOCK

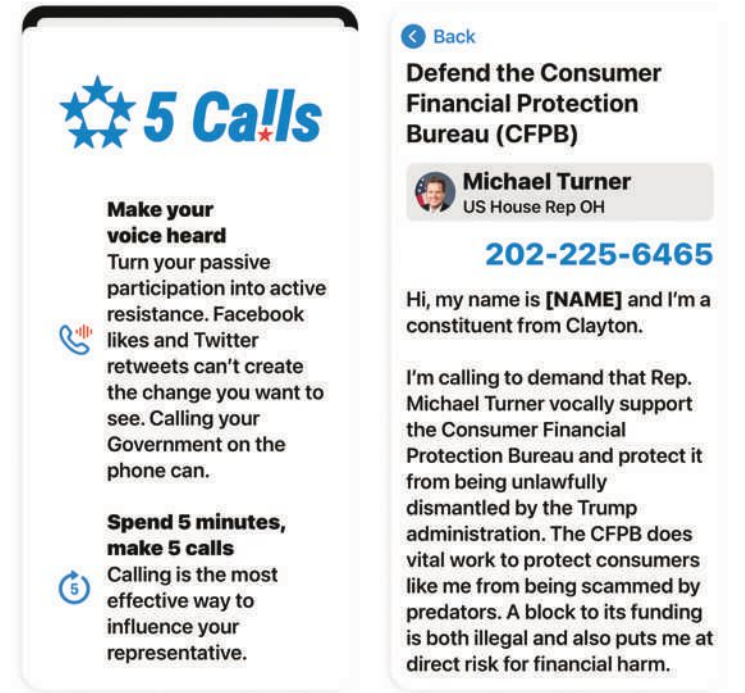


ILLUSTRATION BY SHIRA OVIDE/THE WASHINGTON POST

The 5 Calls app helps users dial members of Congress and provides a selection of scripts on different policy issues.

gressional staffers log constituent calls, voicemails and emails into the same software system. Citizens’ opinions from each method are relayed to members of Congress. “There really is no distinction,” she said.

If you email, 5 Calls suggests not using its scripts intended for phone calls because they can seem canned and impersonal in emails.

Manage your expectations. Don’t expect your call to change your legislator’s mind, but “these calls work in volume,” O’Neill said.

Consider your call as a start, not the end. Meeker said apps like 5 Calls are a great first step for consistent and deepening contact with elected officials about what matters to you. “Be willing to put that time into that relationship,” she said.

Do some homework. Meeker suggested tailoring your message to the committees on which your members of Congress serve or

bills they have sponsored. If your senator is on a finance committee, for example, you might talk to them about local economic effects of White House policies.

Make it about more than you. Meeker was a congressional staff member for about three years. When someone called for help with a mix-up in their veterans benefits, it stood out when the caller wanted to make sure no one else was hurt by the problem. “I was always so moved by that sentiment,” she said.

If you go in person, call ahead. For security reasons, many legislators’ local offices don’t allow visitors unless they have an appointment.

Congress members’ Washington offices are open to the public, with security restrictions, but Meeker said you might want to call ahead anyway — if only to arrange a guided tour of the U.S. Capitol by congressional staff. “It’s an awesome experience,” Meeker said.

Tesla opens a Megapack battery factory in China amid nascent trade war

BY KATRINA NORTHPROP AND VIC CHIANG

Elon Musk’s Tesla on Tuesday opened an enormous \$200 million battery plant in Shanghai, near its carmaking Gigafactory, deepening the company’s investment in China even as its CEO serves in an administration picking a trade war with Beijing.

Musk has been busy in Washington — he is spearheading President Donald Trump’s effort to radically reshape the federal government through his U.S. DOGE Service — and did not attend the ceremony in China.

But the new factory underscores his unusual position as economic tensions between the United States and China escalate.

“If he’s not playing things right on the edge, Elon Musk is not comfortable, so he’s in his element,” said Michael Dunne, a China auto industry consultant, adding that it reflected Musk’s apparent belief that he would innovate faster than everyone else, keeping him in good standing in China.

“That’s the perch from which he plans to navigate what will become increasingly turbulent waters,” Dunne said.

Those waters now include a widening trade conflict.

China implemented tariffs Monday on imports of U.S. coal, liquefied natural gas and other goods in retaliation for Trump’s move last week to slap a further 10 percent tariff on all Chinese goods.

Beijing has also recently launched antitrust investigations into Google and Nvidia, the artificial-intelligence chip juggernaut, and blacklisted PVH, the U.S. fashion giant that owns brands including Tommy Hilfiger and Calvin Klein.

And in a move widely seen as an effort to curb China’s dominance in the global steel market, Trump signed an executive order Monday imposing 25 percent tariffs on all imported steel and aluminum.

The Tesla energy-storage factory that was officially opened Tuesday is set to churn out 10,000 batteries — which Tesla calls Megapacks — annually and was built in only seven months. It required one month of negotiation with the government of Lingang, a manufacturing zone in Shanghai, according to a Lingang news release.

“We’ve witnessed the incredible speed of Shanghai and Tesla

once again. I’m excited to have this factory kick off an exciting year for Tesla,” said Michael Snyder, a vice president at the carmaker, according to state news agency Xinhua.

Tesla did not respond to requests for comment.

The giant batteries, which look like shipping containers, help utilities and large commercial projects smooth out energy demand across a grid and provide electricity in times of peak demand or blackouts. One Megapack, according to Tesla, stores enough energy to power about 3,600 homes for one hour.

This is Tesla’s first Megapack factory outside the United States — the company operates an energy-storage plant in California that is also capable of producing 10,000 packs annually, according to Tesla’s website.

China’s leadership in the global battery industry makes it a natural place for the company to expand, analysts said.

“There is no better place to manufacture batteries in the world, from scale, quality and cost, than China today,” Dunne said. “From way upstream all the way through to the manufacture of battery cells, China’s got just an overwhelming grip on the

industry.”

Tesla already has a large car-manufacturing presence in China. Its Shanghai Gigafactory, which opened in 2019 and supplies the Chinese and overseas markets, produced its three-millionth car in October. China is Tesla’s second-largest market, after the United States.

Beijing was eager to welcome Tesla car manufacturing, experts say, partly to jump-start its own domestic electric-vehicle industry and supply chain.

That effort worked: Tesla now faces steep competition from domestic carmakers such as BYD, which outpaced it in EV production in 2024. Tesla ranked only 10th among car brands in Chinese sales numbers last year, according to the China Passenger Car Association.

Chinese state media coverage of Tesla’s newest factory has been overwhelmingly positive. The Paper, a state-run outlet, hailed the opening as a representation of “Tesla speed” and “Shanghai speed” as well as a “win-win situation for Tesla and Shanghai.”

Xinhua published photos of the opening ceremony, showing workers in hard hats and reflective vests posing in front of a

based hiring quotas.

It also accused Starbucks of singling out preferred groups for additional training and job advancement prospects, and employing a quota system to ensure its own board of directors had a variety of backgrounds.

— Reuters

AUTOMOBILES Judge rejects automaker challenge

A federal judge on Tuesday rejected a challenge by a group representing automakers to a Massachusetts voter-approved

measure that expanded access to vehicle data and allowed independent shops to repair increasingly sophisticated automotive technology.

The ruling by U.S. District Judge Denise Casper in Boston marked a defeat for the Alliance for Automotive Innovation.

— Reuters

ALSO IN BUSINESS

Palmer Luckey-founded defense tech start-up Anduril will take over the development and production of Microsoft’s mixed-reality headset program for the U.S. Army, the companies

said on Tuesday. Anduril will assume control over production, as well as future hardware and software development and delivery timelines for the Integrated Visual Augmentation System (IVAS) project.

Cybersecurity firm SailPoint said on Tuesday that it is now seeking a valuation of up to \$12.57 billion in its U.S. initial public offering, signaling strong demand for the year’s first major test of investor appetite for tech stocks. U.S. IPOs are poised for a strong comeback after nearly three years of sluggish activity.

— From news services

DIGEST

STOCK MARKET

Market holds firm after tariff escalation

Wall Street held relatively firm on Tuesday following President Donald Trump’s latest tariff escalation and after the Federal Reserve hinted interest rates may not change for a while.

The S&P 500 was virtually unchanged and edged up by less than 0.1 percent to 6,068.50 in the market’s first trading since Trump announced 25 percent tariffs on all foreign steel and aluminum coming into the country. The Dow Jones

Industrial Average added 0.3 percent to 44,593.65, and the Nasdaq composite slipped 0.4 percent to 19,643.86.

The moves were also modest in the bond market, where Treasury yields rose by only a bit. In the bond market, the yield on the 10-year Treasury rose to 4.53 percent from 4.50 percent late Monday. The two-year Treasury yield, which moves more closely with expectations for upcoming action by the Fed, held steady. It remained at 4.28 percent, where it was late Monday. The threat of a possible trade war is very real with high potential stakes.

— Associated Press

RETAIL

Starbucks faces DEI discrimination suit

Starbucks was sued on Tuesday by the state of Missouri, which accused the coffee chain of using a commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion as a pretext to systemically discriminate based on race, gender and sexual orientation.

In a complaint filed in St. Louis federal court, Missouri accused Starbucks of tying executive pay to the company’s achieving racial and gender-

5 rules for federal workers and contractors who are dealing with job insecurity



Michelle Singletary
THE COLOR OF MONEY

For days now, I have been deluged with messages from stressed-out federal workers whose job security is a question mark. Whether they decide to stay or go, many fear

financial chaos will ensue. “Can a single mother with teenage children and 27 years in the civil service be fired without cause?” one person asked during a recent online chat about the Elon Musk-led efforts to purge hundreds of thousands of federal employees.

Musk and his U.S. DOGE Service aides are behind a dubious deferred resignation program offered to more than 2 million federal workers — now paused by a federal judge.

This job insecurity and resulting fear is palpable. A few comments:

“Do you expect to see cuts at the State Department if not enough officers leave voluntarily?”

“Is Reduction In Force [the government’s version of a layoff] imminent for federal employees? This is no picnic. We are talking about people’s livelihood. Individuals have dedicated years of their lives in public service to be moved out of with no reason or rhyme.”

“My spouse is a Department of Defense civil employee with 15 years of service. What can we do now with my salary to help us save?”

“For those of us who are no longer on probation, but do not have more than a couple years of federal service, are we first to go? How much of an impact do performance reviews have vs. years of tenure?”

These are just some of the questions I have gotten about the federal worker resignation scheme. If they take it, they will be out of a job by the fall. If they refuse, they will be threatened with unemployment sooner



WASHINGTON POST ILLUSTRATION; ISTOCK

rather than later. While employees would be paid until Sept. 30, they also might be signing away essential rights, as I noted in a recent column.

In either situation, thousands of workers may soon scramble to pay their bills.

I can’t tell how all this will end. But until things are settled, here are five ways to stabilize your financial situation in these nerve-racking times.

Sustain

If there is not enough money coming in, you have to start paying your bills the same way medical staff handle an emergency room slammed with patients. A standard practice is to determine who needs to be

seen first, or triage, when the demand for treatment is greater than the staff can handle.

Some creditors are going to have to wait.

During the pandemic, when so many were unemployed, I reviewed “Surviving Debt,” a book by the National Consumer Law Center (NCLC). A team of experts walks you through how to rank debts and expenses.

I recommend you read this guide, which has been updated for 2025. It is free on the NCLC Digital Library at library.nclc.org/book/surviving-debt.

If you want a hard copy, you will have to pay the \$20 retail price.

The NCLC’s core message is to prioritize your financial

obligations.

High priority: rent, mortgage, auto loan, utilities, child support and court-judgment debt.

If you are worried about paying your mortgage, start talking to your lender now. Find out your options, which may include a pause in your payments. If you are renting, comb through your lease. Talk to your landlord. Now is the time to find out what happens if you can’t pay your rent.

“Lockouts, utility shutoffs, dumping your possessions on the street, threats of violence, and other eviction-related harassment are illegal in all states, even when you are behind on your rent,” the authors point out.

Speed up

If you’re still getting a paycheck, cut as much as possible and direct the savings to an emergency fund.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the median length of time an unemployed person searched before finding a job was 10.4 weeks as of December 2024. But this number masks wide variation, with some people finding work right away and others taking months.

As soon as you lose your job, file for unemployment. It can take some time to start receiving benefits. By the way, if you resign, you may not qualify for unemployment.

You also need to speed up

talking to your creditors. Don’t wait until you can’t pay to give them a heads-up.

Suspend

If you don’t have enough money to make full payments on high-priority debts, negotiate with the creditor to accept lower payments. That will let you save money to use later to get caught up, like covering the initial costs of moving to a new residence or paying for another car if your car is repossessed.

This brings me back to the NCLC guide. The group classifies as low priority credit card, medical and student loan debt, as well as money owed to friends and family. When in a financial crisis, you are forced to focus on a roof over your head, food on the table and other basic needs.

Don’t let lower-priority creditors push you to pay what you can’t afford. For instance, concern about your credit rating should not move up a debt’s priority. You can fix that damage later. Just because a creditor is threatening to sue you doesn’t mean you should elevate a debt to the top of your list — until you’re actually sued.

Slow down

You may have an aggressive debt-reduction plan, which is commendable. But making only minimum payments on your credit card debt is okay if you’re threatened with a job loss.

Stopping or slowing down debt payments is a hard decision to make, but remember the triage analogy: You have to attend to the most important thing first — the necessities.

Stop

Got vacation plans for the summer? Cancel, even if it means forfeiting a deposit.

If you have a big home-improvement project scheduled, stop it.

Please trim any unnecessary expenses now.

While I hope for the best for you, it’s imperative you plan for the worst-case scenario.

Consumer watchdog took aim at Big Tech. Then Musk moved to dismantle it.

CFPB FROM A1

corporate practices. Formed in the wake of the 2008 financial collapse, the CFPB has policed traditional banks and lenders as well as Apple, Google and other tech giants that seek to offer digital versions of those services.

But that was before last week, when Musk’s team of young agents — acting at Trump’s behest — began targeting the CFPB as part of their disruptive campaign to slash spending and regulation across government. As they burrowed into the bureau’s computers, Musk made clear his goal is to dismantle the agency, which soon ordered a full stoppage to all of its work to investigate companies and protect consumers.

By Tuesday, top CFPB enforcement officials departed the agency after clashing with the Trump administration over the freeze, according to emails obtained by The Washington Post. And Musk’s aides, operating under the banner of the U.S. DOGE Service, appeared to gain authorization to access “all” CFPB computer systems, other emails indicated, raising questions about whether those close to the tech mogul might be able to see nonpublic information about his potential digital-payment competitors.

But the shutdown alone amounted to a long-sought victory for Musk and other CFPB critics in Silicon Valley, where executives have lobbied to neuter its oversight — and some companies, including X, have supported lawsuits to scuttle the agency’s rules. And it left unclear the future of Washington’s approach to digital finance, as a wave of formerly brick-and-mortar banking services migrate online with no clear federal regulator to oversee them.

“This is like a bank robber trying to fire the cops and turn off the alarms before he strolls in the lobby,” Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Massachusetts) said at a rally outside CFPB headquarters Monday, where participants — some of whom were federal workers — chanted anti-Musk slogans.

Musk did not respond to a request for comment. Speaking alongside Trump in the Oval Office on Tuesday, he said he had been “maximally transparent” in his work, adding that the public can see and react if he is “doing something that benefits one of my companies or not.”

“If we thought that,” Trump interjected, “we would not let him do that segment or look in that area, if we thought there was a lack of transparency or a conflict of interest.”



JABIN BOTSFORD/THE WASHINGTON POST

Elon Musk’s team began targeting the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau last week in a bid to slash federal spending and regulations.

Spokespeople for X did not respond to multiple requests for comment.

Musk and his team had been laying the groundwork for years to launch a payment system: He reportedly raised the idea at one of his first meetings with staff after acquiring the social media company, then known as Twitter, in 2022. Once he renamed the site the following year, Musk promised that July that X would eventually expand to “add comprehensive communications and the ability to conduct your entire financial world.”

“Think Venmo at first,” Christopher Stanley, who runs security engineering for X, said in a post this past April explaining the app that soon would allow users to send cash and make payments. Stanley described the ultimate goal as a payment and lending network in which “you shouldn’t ever need to take money out because you should be able to do anything you need on our platform.”

Musk’s interest in payments reflected a rapid shift underway throughout Silicon Valley, as the largest tech companies — already stewards of vast troves of consum-

er data — looked to monetize their insights further by serving as the primary conduits through which millions of people spend money. That trend had already raised alarms in Washington, where CFPB officials under President Joe Biden came to fear that federal laws had not kept pace with the digitization of banking.

In a study of major tech firms by the bureau’s last director, Rohit Chopra, the agency found most adults had used digital payment apps — even though the money stored on these services is not insured against loss, unlike traditional banks. The bureau also collected tens of thousands of complaints from consumers, who said they struggled to address fraudulent charges and other issues on their accounts.

“Digital payments have gone from novelty to necessity, and our oversight must reflect this reality,” Chopra said last fall.

By the end of the Biden administration, the CFPB had meted out a number of punishments against tech companies, products and services, including Apple, Cash App and Zelle, while launching probes into firms including Meta, the parent of Facebook. Many consumer

advocates heralded the CFPB intervention, arguing that federal and state laws had created a messy patchwork with no clear consumer protection watchdog.

“These platforms capture a lot of customer information, sometimes way more than they should be capturing. They have also been subject to a lot of fraud and scams,” said Chuck Bell, a program director at Consumer Reports, which supports stronger financial regulations. “So it would be important to the agency both to monitor the marketplace practices of those companies, and see what consumers are complaining about.”

But Chopra’s actions only earned more enemies in Silicon Valley, which had been quietly stoking congressional opposition to the bureau’s oversight for months. Shortly after the 2024 election, the venture capitalist Marc Andreessen publicly lashed out at the CFPB — attacking the agency on a podcast for “terrorizing financial institutions.”

Andreessen’s firm had backed a number of financial technology companies under the CFPB’s watch, and the agency in 2021 notably shuttered one of them — LendUp Loans — over allegations

it misled customers and overcharged military service members. As a Trump supporter who soon began advising the incoming president, Andreessen’s comments caught the attention of Musk, who later responded on X to a clip of the interview with an early threat: “Delete CFPB. There are too many duplicative regulatory agencies.”

A spokesman for Andreessen’s firm did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Two tech industry lobbying groups, NetChoice and TechNet, later sued the bureau in January, specifically objecting to new rules that could subject tech companies to the same sort of inspections and other rigorous monitoring the government imposes on major banks. NetChoice is backed by companies including PayPal — which Musk helped to found — and X, which he owns. The groups argued the CFPB had engaged in “unlawful overreach into digital payments” and “increasing government control.”

Spokespeople for NetChoice and TechNet did not respond to requests for comment. The group’s members include Amazon, whose founder, Jeff Bezos,

owns The Washington Post.

Experts say the vast scale of Musk’s ambitions for X probably would have attracted attention at the CFPB, especially if the company met his stated goal of enrolling millions of users to the payment system, since that would trigger the very sort of bureau supervision its lobbying groups had sued to block.

“Either way, you would have the CFPB looking into the activities of X,” said Adam Rust, the director of financial services at the Consumer Federation of America, which supports the bureau’s oversight. “That may be something Musk doesn’t like.”

Unveiling new details about the project known as X Money on Jan. 28, Linda Yaccarino, the chief executive of X, described the coming service as a “milestone,” as she said users this year would be able to use Visa to access “secure + instant funding” while connecting “your debit card” to make payments. Visa, meanwhile, promised that users could “fund and transfer money in real-time with their debit card.” The company did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

By that point, Musk already appeared to be spending most of his time running DOGE, which stands for Department of Government Efficiency. Camped out at one point last week in an agency conference room, the initial team of six deputies quickly gained access to “all unclassified CFPB systems,” according to an email obtained by The Post. (The CFPB does not have classified systems.)

The extent of their access raised alarms throughout Washington that Musk’s team might be able to view the bureau’s confidential records about banks, as well as its investigative materials, consumer banking records and other sensitive documents. The CFPB has investigated some of Musk’s potential payment competitors, including Block Inc., which owns Cash App.

The CFPB declined to comment. A spokeswoman for DOGE did not respond to a request for comment.

As the DOGE review proceeded, Trump on Friday tapped Russell Vought — his new White House budget chief — to serve as acting director of the CFPB. In his first public-facing action, Vought immediately froze all agency activities, including its work to implement regulations, defend its policies in court and conduct inspections of banks and other companies under its watch.

“CFPB RIP” Musk posted on X that evening.

Trump taps DEA veteran to lead agency as it seeks to curb fentanyl crisis

Terry Cole has most recently been Virginia's top public safety official

BY DAVID OVALLE AND MAEGAN VAZQUEZ

President Donald Trump on Tuesday nominated Terry Cole to lead the Drug Enforcement Administration, elevating a long-time law enforcement official who spent more than two decades at the agency and now serves as Virginia's top public safety official.

The nomination came more than two months after Trump's first selection, Florida sheriff Chad Chronister, announced his withdrawal amid withering criticism from conservative figures. The DEA's main task is to handle complex investigations in the United States and abroad aimed at disrupting criminal organizations that traffic illegal drugs into the United States. If the Senate confirms him, Cole would be responsible for leading the effort to curb the enduring drug crisis fueled by fentanyl manufactured in Mexico with chemicals from China. Cole would replace Derek Maltz, a 28-year veteran of the

DEA whom Trump picked to serve as acting administrator the day after he was sworn in as president. In a Truth Social post announcing Cole's nomination, Trump described him as a "veteran" of the DEA "with tours in Colombia, Afghanistan, and Mexico City." Cole currently serves as Virginia's secretary of public safety and homeland security. According to his official biography for his Virginia post, Cole spent 22 years at the DEA serving in leadership roles, including as chief of staff and executive officer for the DEA's chief of global operations. He also served as the agency's representative to the

National Security Council. He retired from the agency in 2020 holding the title of acting regional director for Mexico, Canada and Central America. If confirmed, Cole would lead 10,000 DEA personnel who combat criminal organizations that traffic cocaine, methamphetamine and synthetic opioids such as fentanyl that have killed more than 400,000 people in the United States since 2015. Investigations by the DEA, which has agents in dozens of countries, will unfold in a complicated geopolitical environment. Fentanyl is primarily manufactured in secret Mexican labs run by criminal groups that use

chemicals purchased from China. Trump has threatened stiff tariffs on both countries if they don't do more to curb the flow of drugs. The incoming DEA administrator also would lead the agency as it handles a Biden Justice Department proposal to loosen restrictions on marijuana — a measure previously supported by Trump despite objections from other GOP leaders. Chronister's proposed nomination fell apart three days after Trump tapped him to replace DEA Administrator Anne Milgram. The selection of Chronister, a former Democrat, was a surprise

in political and law enforcement circles because he had little experience on the national or global stage. Chronister has been sheriff in Hillsborough County, which includes Tampa, since 2017 and earlier worked alongside Pam Bondi, the former Florida attorney general who last week became U.S. attorney general. Conservative objections to Chronister centered on his arrest of a Tampa megachurch pastor for holding a service despite rules limiting crowds in March 2020, during the initial phase of the coronavirus pandemic. Fenit Nirappil contributed to this report.

With Trump's tariffs on China, smaller firms face higher costs and hard choices

TARIFFS FROM A1

which include Etsy sellers, board game shops, hardware stores and boutiques, represent 99.9 percent of all companies in the United States and contribute 44 percent of the gross domestic product, according to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

"I think I haven't slept in five days — I've been on calls constantly because everybody is panicking about these tariffs, and it's pretty unpredictable," said Angela Santos, a partner at the Washington-based law firm ArentFox Schiff, where she works with many such businesses. "What you counsel a company on one day could change the next."

Companies have struggled to keep up with Trump's oscillating executive orders. Since Feb. 1, he has imposed new tariffs on imports from Mexico and Canada, increased tariffs on goods from China, removed the "de minimis" import tax loophole leveraged by e-commerce companies for items worth less than \$800 — then delayed most of those actions. The additional Chinese levies are the only tariffs that went into effect.

On Monday, Trump signed an order to add 25 percent tariffs on imported steel and aluminum next month, a move that could eventually affect auto parts and appliance businesses.

While tariffs are part of Trump's broader strategy to boost domestic production, not all small businesses can afford to switch to factories in the United States or in countries not subject to tariffs. Operating on slim margins, these firms often lack the cash flow to quickly pivot their production or supply chain like their large chain and brand competitors can, said Alison Layfield, director of product development at ePost Global, a direct-to-consumer shipping provider.

Plus, with their bigger rivals undercutting them on price, China is often their cheapest option. In 2021, small and midsize companies accounted for 41.2 percent of the imports from China, according to the latest data available from the U.S. Census Bureau. Smaller businesses also often



Gabby Goodwin, who with her mother, Rozalynn, runs Confidence by GaBBY Goodwin, a small firm whose hair clips are made in China.

rely on China because it has expertise that other countries lack and can supply many crucial raw materials, Santos said. Rick Brodersen, the owner of Journeyman Pro, which sells electrical wiring devices, said he has to stick with his manufacturers in China. Not only is it expensive to move, Brodersen said, but he also needs factories that adhere to an arduous safety certification process required for his product. But his larger competitors can afford the near-term cost of shifting production sources, he said. Jimmy Zollo, the founder of Joe & Bella, is also somewhat restricted to manufacturing in China. The company, which makes clothing designed to be easier for people with dementia, Parkinson's and other disabilities to take on and off, uses a specialized zipper

"It's not a good feeling knowing that you have no control over it and that the only way that you can survive is increasing prices."
Rick Brodersen, owner of Journeyman Pro, on the tariffs

that is produced by a single China-based supplier that sells only to local manufacturers, he said. "We want to help as many people as possible to dress painlessly and with a sense of dignity, and our ability to do that is potentially impacted by these tariffs," Zollo said. Barrette-seller Goodwin said moving manufacturing to the United States is improbable, despite Trump's intentions in imposing tariffs, because it would

cost her three to four times the price offered by Chinese factories, she said. Even U.S. factories told her it wasn't worth it, she said. Many brands and businesses are finding other ways to save money or root out inefficiencies, said Meher, of Loop Returns. Companies are working with suppliers to lower costs, meeting with domestic manufacturers, and analyzing profit margins on items to determine which can absorb costs and decide whether

to stop producing those that can't. Customs brokers have also stepped in, advising brands on ways to lower their exposure to tariffs. But for some, increasing prices could be their only option. Brodersen, whose electrical wiring device company is based in Philadelphia but whose company's operations are in Seattle, has already started charging more for some of his devices. "It definitely hurts," he said. "It's not a good feeling knowing that you have no control over it and that the only way that you can survive is increasing prices." Max Lemper-Tabatsky, a co-founder of Honos, a Denver-based holding company that sells cremation urns and jewelry through the brand Oaktree Memorials, said he is trying to hold

prices steady for at least three to six more months. About 35 percent of the company's products are manufactured in China, a portion of which enter the United States duty-free thanks to the de minimis loophole. Lemper-Tabatsky is exploring shifting his production to Thailand or Vietnam. If that doesn't prove to be a viable option, price increases may be on the table, he said, especially if the tariff exemption for items under \$800 is permanently eliminated. "We're kind of refocusing and discussing our pricing strategy," Lemper-Tabatsky said. "We might have to, unfortunately, make some changes to our retail prices." Goodwin, however, said she worries that increasing prices would deter customers. But she may have no other option — she is already dealing with a mountain of costs, which include Amazon, website, marketing and delivery fees. Unlike her competitors, which are often Asian manufacturers selling directly to beauty stores in the United States, Goodwin's patented anti-slip barrettes are already more expensive at \$3.99 compared with their competitors' \$1 product. "I don't think many people realize that growing, small companies already have an uphill battle competing with larger companies here, but in our situation, we're competing with China — while we're having to use China" for manufacturing, Goodwin said. Some brands that Meher works with are seeing an uptick in order cancellations. "Consumers are fearful and want to conserve some cash, so I think spending is starting to become a bit more scrutinized," she said. As much as businesses try to curb costs, the customer will ultimately bear the brunt, said Maggie Barnett, chief executive of LVK, a third-party logistics company with warehouses in the United States and Canada. "It's hard to believe the consumer won't be paying more due to these tariffs," she said. "It has to be absorbed somewhere, and the supply chain can only be absorbed so much."

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Fed chair defends free trade but stops short of critiquing Trump’s tariffs

BY ANDREW ACKERMAN

Federal Reserve Board Chair Jerome H. Powell trod carefully Tuesday around questions about President Donald Trump’s new trade and financial policies, saying he still believes economies function best without tariffs on their trading partners.

Powell, kicking off two days of Capitol Hill testimony, stopped short of critiquing Trump’s new tariffs. But he stood by remarks he made during the first Trump administration, that countries that remain open to trade have stronger economies and higher incomes.

“Yes ... I would stand by that,” Powell told the Senate Banking Committee, in reference to his testimony from July 2018. He added that it isn’t the Fed’s job to make or comment on tariff policy, saying, “That’s for elected people.”

The Fed has entered a new wait-and-see policy stance amid a cloudy economic outlook and uncertainty over whether some

of Trump’s policies could stymie the fight against inflation. Trump signed a pair of executive orders Monday imposing 25 percent tariffs on imported steel and aluminum, the latest in his effort to overhaul the U.S. trading relationship with the rest of the world.

After the Fed trimmed borrowing costs by a full percentage point between September and December of last year, it hit the pause button last month at its first meeting of 2025. Officials have given no indication of when they would cut again but have signaled that they anticipate the pace of cuts slowing to just two this year, down from the four cuts projected before the election.

The Fed’s benchmark short-term rate, which trickles through the financial system to influence what millions of consumers and businesses pay to borrow money, sits at 4.25 to 4.5 percent. Despite the consecutive Fed cuts last year, longer-term interest rates for government borrowing and even for consumer mortgages have



Federal Reserve Board Chair Jerome H. Powell testifies Tuesday before the Senate Banking Committee on Capitol Hill.

risen, partly reflecting expectations of a stronger economy going forward.

On Tuesday, Powell told lawmakers that the Fed is in no rush to cut again with the economy in strong shape and inflation still “somewhat elevated.”

“With our policy stance now

significantly less restrictive than it had been and the economy remaining strong, we do not need to be in a hurry to adjust our policy stance,” he said in prepared remarks at the start of Tuesday’s hearing.

If the economy remains strong and inflation does not continue

to cool toward the Fed’s 2 percent goal, “we can maintain policy restraint for longer,” Powell said. On the other hand, if the labor market were to weaken unexpectedly, or inflation were to fall more quickly than anticipated, he said, “we can ease policy accordingly.”

After raising interest rates at a rapid clip to tackle shockingly high inflation in 2022, the Fed kept rates elevated for about a year, before it began to lower them in September to shore up a softening labor market. But concerns about the labor market have generally dissipated, with the unemployment rate remaining low.

“Overall, a wide set of indicators suggests that conditions in the labor market are broadly in balance,” Powell said Tuesday.

Now, inflation remains stubbornly elevated, hovering above the Fed’s 2 percent goal, though there are signs it continues to slowly cool. Underlying inflation that strips out volatile food and energy prices eased down in De-

cember’s consumer price index. Price increases for housing, one of the biggest components of the index, are also beginning to ease.

Later Tuesday, Powell declined to comment on Trump’s remarks from over the weekend suggesting that Elon Musk’s government efficiency team had found irregularities with Treasury Department payments and that the government could simply disregard some of its financial obligations, according to Bloomberg News.

“I’m not going to comment on things the president says,” Powell said in response to a question from Sen. Mark R. Warner (D-Virginia).

Powell also declined to take a victory lap for tackling inflation without pushing the economy into a recession, a “soft landing.”

“I don’t know why you don’t take the credit. Everybody else in Washington, D.C., does,” said Sen. John Neely Kennedy (R-Louisiana). “I never imagined that our landing could be this soft, albeit not perfect.”

National Park Service to exempt some workers from federal hiring freeze

BY MAXINE JOSELOV

The National Park Service will exempt some workers from President Donald Trump’s freeze on the hiring of civilian employees across the federal government, according to two people familiar with the matter and an email obtained by The Washington Post.

The exemption will apply to seasonal employees with law enforcement positions, including law enforcement rangers and public safety dispatchers, according to the email and the people familiar with the matter, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because the announcement is not yet public.

The move comes after congressional Democrats warned that national parks could be short-staffed during the summer season, when more than 100 million Americans and international tourists typically visit. Conservation groups also raised concerns that a shortage of law enforcement workers could prevent park visitors from receiving lifesaving medical evacuations and care.

“While public safety positions do fall under an exemption from the hiring freeze, the National Park Service still had to request an exemption and obtain approval to move forward in the hiring process,” said a Tuesday email to someone whose job offer for a seasonal public safety dispatcher was rescinded last month. “Your position was approved to continue on with the hiring process on Friday.”

It is unclear whether the exemption will eventually be broadened to include all seasonal employees. Spokespeople for the



National Park Service officers salute along the Wall of Names on Sept. 11 at the Flight 93 National Memorial in Pennsylvania.

Park Service did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The exemption is narrower than congressional Democrats had recommended. In a letter Friday to Interior Secretary Doug Burgum, 22 Senate Democrats had urged the Park Service to exempt all seasonal workers —

and to rescind buyout offers that allow federal workers to resign with the promise of pay through September.

“Without seasonal staff during this peak season, visitor centers may close, bathrooms will be filthy, campgrounds may close, guided tours will be cut back or altogether cancelled, emergency

response times will drop, and visitor services like safety advice, trail recommendations, and interpretation will be unavailable,” the letter said.

Still, hiring more law enforcement workers could help save lives, former Park Service officials said. An average of 358 people died in national parks per year

from 2014 to 2019, according to Park Service data. The leading causes were motor vehicle crashes, drownings and falls.

“There was probably not a year that went by where someone was not, at a minimum, burned badly,” Dan Wenk, who served as superintendent of Yellowstone National Park from 2011 to 2019, said in

an interview.

“Most years, people would lose their lives by falling into thermal pools,” Wenk added. “Unfortunately, even with quote-unquote full staffing, those things happen. If you cut that staffing dramatically, that would be exacerbated in terms of the number of injuries and deaths that would happen throughout the national parks.”

On the first day of his second term, Trump signed an executive order that instituted a sweeping freeze on federal hiring, with exceptions for military personnel and jobs “related to immigration enforcement, national security or public safety.” A subsequent White House memorandum said the freeze should not apply to “seasonal employees and short-term temporary employees necessary to meet traditionally recurring seasonal workloads.”

Despite this guidance, the Park Service last month rescinded roughly 400 job offers for seasonal positions at parks across the country. The Post previously reported. It is unclear how many of those positions were in law enforcement.

“Your job offer has been rescinded at management request,” said an email last month to the person with the public safety dispatcher offer. “Should the bureau be able to fill the position again, another announcement will be posted in due course.”

Days after Trump’s executive order on the hiring freeze, the Department of Veterans Affairs also announced exemptions for “essential positions that provide health care and other vital services to Veterans and VA beneficiaries.”

Vance pushes ‘America First’ AI agenda, accuses allies of overregulation

BY CAT ZAKRZEWSKI AND ELLEN FRANCIS

PARIS — Vice President JD Vance promised Tuesday that the Trump administration would prioritize U.S. leadership in artificial intelligence, delivering sharp criticism of the European Union’s sweeping efforts to regulate the tech sector during a conference intended to foster international cooperation.

As European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen sat behind him onstage, Vance cautioned that the Trump administration will not accept foreign governments “tightening the screws” on American tech companies. He warned that a “risk-averse” approach to AI regulation could paralyze the emerging technology.

“We need our European friends in particular to look to this new frontier with optimism, rather than trepidation,” he said, standing at a lectern in the Grand Palais, where world leaders had convened for the AI Action Summit, co-hosted by French President Emmanuel Macron and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The United States and the United Kingdom did not sign an international agreement that resulted from the summit, in which more than 70 countries, companies and civil society groups committed to build “inclusive and sustainable artificial intelligence for people and the planet.” China, India and the 27 member states of the European Union were among the signatories.

Vance’s remarks signaled that his first trip to Europe would advance the Trump administration’s “America First” approach to



Vice President JD Vance speaks Tuesday during the AI Action Summit in Paris. The United States and the United Kingdom did not sign an international agreement that resulted from the summit.

foreign policy, promoting U.S. industrial interests over relationships with allies. His speech marked a dramatic shift from the Biden administration, which often sought to work with counterparts at European Union headquarters in Brussels to curtail the alleged abuses of tech companies.

“The United States of America is the leader in AI, and our administration plans to keep that,” Vance said to an audience that included Google CEO Sundar Pichai and OpenAI CEO Sam Altman. “The AI future is not going to be won by hand-wringing about safety. It will be won by building.”

Vance made the comments on his second day in Europe, where he is attending both the AI event and the Munich Security Conference. On Monday night, he dined with world leaders and tech executives attending the AI summit, and he met with Macron, Modi, von der Leyen and European Commission Vice President Kaja Kallas later Tuesday.

During a bilateral meeting at the residence of the U.S. ambassador to France, von der Leyen said she liked Vance’s speech about approaching AI with optimism.

“I think the same goes for our transatlantic relations,” she said.

Von der Leyen’s tone was far

more moderate than her comments earlier in the day, when she promised the E.U. would respond to the Trump administration’s tariffs on European steel and aluminum exports.

“Unjustified tariffs on the E.U. will not go unanswered — they will trigger firm and proportionate countermeasures,” she said. “The E.U. will act to safeguard its economic interests. We will protect our workers, businesses and consumers.”

The meeting was “genuinely constructive,” said an E.U. official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss the private conversation. The leaders dis-

“The AI future is not going to be won by hand-wringing about safety. It will be won by building.”

Vice President JD Vance, addressing an audience that included Google CEO Sundar Pichai and OpenAI CEO Sam Altman

cussed several issues, including Russia’s war in Ukraine, trade and China. Kallas noted that China is closely watching the West’s response to the war in Ukraine and would benefit most from a trade conflict between the United States and the E.U.

Vance also exchanged pleasantries and shook hands with Modi, who called their working dinner at the Élysée Palace a “good get-together.”

Vance did not speak at the Monday dinner, said Alexandra Reeve Givens, the CEO of the nonprofit Center for Democracy and Technology, who also attended the private gathering at the Élysée Palace. She said this resulted in a “striking scenario” in which Chinese Vice Premier Zhang Guoqing spoke about leading global cooperation to secure development of artificial intelligence.

“You could feel the vacuum as the U.S. retreats from meaningful cooperation on the world stage,” she said.

Vance’s speech diverged from the overall tone of the summit, where participants spent two days discussing how to use AI to protect democracies from disinformation and how to promote the use of the technology for the public interest.

In President Donald Trump’s first weeks in office, he has taken dramatic executive action to advance policies that benefit Ameri-

can technology companies. Now Vance is advancing that message abroad, blasting specific European laws and committing to limit authoritarian governments’ use of the technology.

Over the past decade, the European Union has adopted an expansive package of laws addressing AI, social media, privacy and market concentration in the tech sector. Vance slammed the E.U. Digital Services Act, a landmark social media law that penalizes companies for hosting content the bloc views as harmful on their services. He also criticized the General Data Protection Regulation, a privacy law that he says has resulted in massive compliance costs for companies.

In an apparent reference to China, Vance said the United States would block authoritarian governments’ efforts to use AI to expand surveillance and undermine the national security interests of other countries.

Von der Leyen defended the E.U. AI Act in her speech after Vance’s, saying that the act provided a single law so that companies did not have to worry about different regulations in each of the E.U.’s 27 member states.

“AI needs the confidence of the people and has to be safe,” she said. “At the same time, I know we have to make it easier, and we have to cut red tape. And we will.”

Francis reported from Brussels.

Students at middle school walk out as Hegseth visits U.S. base in Germany

BY DAN LAMOTHE

BRUSSELS — Dozens of American students at a U.S. military installation in Germany walked out of their middle school on Tuesday as part of protests aimed at an official visit by Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, underscoring the scope of disillusionment with the Trump administration's crackdown on diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) initiatives.

The students attend Patch Middle School in Stuttgart, Germany, and peacefully walked out of class for nearly an hour, according to three people familiar with the matter and a letter sent to parents by a school administrator. Separately, a small group of adults dressed in civilian clothing — likely parents — gathered outside at Stuttgart and protested within view and earshot of Hegseth's delegation, booing and chanting "DEI!", according to video recorded by a reporter traveling with the secretary.

The protests were in response to President Donald Trump's string of executive orders target-

ing diversity efforts throughout the U.S. government, directives Hegseth has carried out enthusiastically. Since he took over the Pentagon, Black History Month celebrations and other similar events have been banned and access to select books in Defense Department schools attended by the children of U.S. service members have been restricted. Those moves have drawn criticism from parents and students alike.

A spokesman for Hegseth did not respond to requests for comment about the protests. Last week, the secretary, a former National Guard soldier who rose to prominence as a Fox News personality, proclaimed that he believes "the single-dumbest phrase in military history is, 'Our diversity is our strength.'"

The school administrator's letter said that about 1 p.m., roughly 55 students "walked out in protest of recent events." They exited the school in orderly fashion and gathered in a courtyard outside, said the letter, signed by Alexis Small, an assistant principal.

She added that the Department of Defense Education Ac-

tivity (DoDEA), which oversees about 67,000 students spread across about 160 schools worldwide, "respects our students' rights to peacefully express their opinions through speech and other means as long as it is done respectfully, does not interfere with the rights of others, and does not disrupt learning in our school."

A Pentagon spokesman said he had no information to provide about the issue. Will Griffin, a spokesman for DoDEA, said he had nothing to add to what was in the memo the school sent to parents.

Hegseth has sought to portray U.S. troops and their families as nearly universally in support of Trump and the administration's effort to reinvigorate the military's "warrior ethos."

"They're so excited to have President Trump as their commander in chief," Hegseth said recently on the Fox News program "Sunday Morning Futures." There is now "an electricity" in the military, he added.

Such protests on military installations are exceedingly rare, even when service members are

not involved. While service members are prohibited from carrying out actions that may be perceived as partisan, military spouses face few prohibitions.

The walkout was organized in part by an eighth-grade student who is not yet 14 years old, she and her mother said in a joint phone interview with The Washington Post. She spoke on the condition of anonymity, citing concerns about backlash from Trump supporters. Other parents verified the girl's leading role in the protest.

The student said that she and other students decided to act after seeing how Trump's executive orders would target diversity events, including a drama club performance that celebrated Black History Month with Motown songs. Many involved in the protest, she said, also were concerned with how the Trump administration's directives would affect people in the LG-BTQ+ community.

It made sense to do something, she said, while Hegseth was visiting Patch Barracks. The installation in Stuttgart is home to both U.S. European Command

and U.S. Africa Command, major military headquarters that call Patch home.

"There was this great sense of community and belonging," the student said. "Like we're not alone, because so many kids came out."

It was not clear if Hegseth was aware of the school walkout, and he did not mention the protest by adults during a news conference in Stuttgart later Tuesday. He departed after the event for Brussels, where he is expected to meet Wednesday with counterparts from the dozens of countries that support Ukraine in its efforts to resist Russia's three-year-old invasion.

A senior military official, speaking on the condition of anonymity under ground rules set by the Pentagon, said Hegseth had several productive meetings while at Stuttgart, speaking with troops, command staffs and generals. He also posted photographs of an early-morning workout with rank-and-file service members.

On Monday night, after leaving Washington, Hegseth announced that he was reverting

the name of Fort Liberty in North Carolina to Fort Bragg. The name of the installation, home to the 82nd Airborne Division and other high-profile Army units, was changed from Fort Bragg to Fort Liberty in 2023 by the Biden administration because it had been named for Braxton Bragg, a Confederate general who had fought against preserving the Union in the Civil War.

Trump has complained about the change since it was instituted, and Hegseth's team made the swap by naming the installation instead for Roland Bragg, a soldier decorated with a Silver Star for valor in World War II. It was not immediately clear if they are related. Hegseth on Tuesday sought to highlight what he deems the benefits of restoring the Bragg name.

"It means that Bragg is back," he said. "It means that the legacy of an institution that generations of Americans have mobilized through and served at is back. It's a shame what was done to vets, service members and their families who were born there, deployed out of there, lived there."

Release a 'show of good faith' from Russia amid talks on Ukraine, envoy says

FOGEL FROM A1

was traded for Fogel's release.

Waltz tied the release to Trump's efforts to resolve the war in Ukraine, saying that the successful negotiation "serves as a show of good faith from the Russians and a sign we are moving in the right direction to end the brutal and terrible war."

Fogel's family said in a statement that "we are grateful, relieved, and overwhelmed that after more than three years of detention our father, husband and son ... is finally coming home." They thanked "the unwavering leadership of President Trump."

Martin De Luca, the lawyer representing Fogel, called his release "a testament to the power of strong leadership" and criticized the Biden administration for "consistent refusals to designate Marc as wrongfully detained" until late last year, while Trump arranged his freedom "in just a few weeks, wasting no time in taking decisive action."

While it remains unclear what administration action secured Fogel's release, Trump has said he plans to speak soon with Russian President Vladimir Putin about Ukraine and other matters.

During his 2024 presidential campaign, Trump said he would resolve the three-year Ukraine-Russia war "in 24 hours" after taking office. Last weekend, he told reporters he was "making progress" with both Kyiv and Moscow toward a negotiated settlement. In a Friday interview with the New York Post, he said he had spoken to Putin about ending the conflict but would not say when or how many times they've talked. Putin "wants to see people stop dying," he said.

In an interview with Britain's



STEPHANIE SCARBROUGH/AP

An artist's rendering of Marc Fogel is displayed in July 2023 outside the White House during a demonstration organized by his family.

ITV News published last weekend, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said he "would be ready for any format for talks" if there was "an understanding that America and Europe will not abandon us and they will support us and provide security guarantees."

Putin, while saying he is open to talks, has not conceded any of his goal of making a significant amount of Ukrainian territory part of Russia.

Keith Kellogg, the retired three-star general Trump ap-

pointed as his special envoy to the Ukraine war, was widely expected to announce a negotiating plan at this week's Munich Security Conference in Germany. But he said he plans to use the gathering, attended by European leaders, to instead consult with the Europeans before revealing any specific proposals.

Kellogg has delayed a trip to Kyiv, and his talks with Moscow leading to Fogel's release were kept secret until Tuesday's announcement.

Vice President JD Vance, who is

also attending the Munich conference, along with Secretary of State Marco Rubio, is scheduled to meet with Zelensky there on Friday.

Fogel, who worked at the Anglo-American School of Moscow, was arrested at the airport there when customs officers found marijuana and cannabis oil in his suitcase as he returned from a trip to the United States. His family said it had been recommended by his U.S. doctor to treat back problems.

He pleaded guilty to charges of transporting and possessing illegal drugs, although his lawyers

and family charged that his 14-year sentence was disproportionate to the sentence given Russians charged with the same crime.

His case bore resemblance to that of Brittney Griner's, the U.S. women's professional basketball star who was arrested in February 2022 on smuggling charges by Russian customs officials who found cartridges containing a small amount of medically prescribed hash oil in her luggage. In December of that year, after Griner was sentenced to nine years, the Biden administration negoti-

ated her release in exchange for U.S.-imprisoned Russian arms dealer Viktor Bout.

Griner's release, and that of other prisoners such as Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich and U.S. Marine veteran Paul Whelan, led Fogel's family and supporters to charge that Biden's failure to include Fogel in swaps amounted to "betrayal."

The Biden administration never acknowledged reasons for not including Fogel in previous exchanges, although some reports have highlighted the amount of marijuana he was carrying, which his family said was less than 20 grams. Griner was arrested with less than a gram of hash oil.

The State Department undertakes what officials at the time said was a long process of declaring someone imprisoned abroad as "unjustly detained." In Fogel's case, he was not so designated until October of last year, a classification that was not announced until the end of Biden's term in late December.

Trump has long said that the release of Americans unjustly detained abroad is one of his highest priorities, and he has criticized Biden and previous presidents for exchanges he has said he would never agree to. In March 2019, during Trump's first term in office, his special envoy for hostage affairs, Robert O'Brien, said Trump's "unparalleled success in bringing Americans home without paying concessions, without prisoner exchanges" had come "through force of will and the good will that he's generated around the world."

But several subsequent releases under Trump involving Americans held in Iran, Afghanistan and Yemen included prisoner exchanges.

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WEDNESDAY OPINION

E.J. DIONNE JR.

Democrats, you’ve been given a mission. Accept it.

To read the recent commentary, you’d think the Democratic Party is already going the way of the Whigs. Writers are racing each other to find the most alarming words to describe the party’s predicament — “leaderless, rudderless and divided,” and, of course, “crisis.”

Meanwhile, President Donald Trump is dismantling the country’s constitutional order at a furious pace.

From his botched spending freeze to illegal firings of inspectors general, Justice Department lawyers, FBI agents and commissioners at the National Labor Relations Board and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission — this is a very partial list — Trump is claiming power no president actually has and sowing chaos in the government he purports to lead. Treating our public sector as if it were a mere cog in his business empire, Elon Musk is zeroing out programs and accessing financial information about every American without any authority from the Constitution, the Congress, the law or the voters.

However disoriented Democrats may be, they have to understand that Trump has given them a mission. They need to accept it — all of it.

Which means that a lot of what once passed for strategy is useless now. Democrats cannot pretend that business-as-usual behavior is appropriate to this moment. They cannot “choose their battles” because what’s at stake is not just this or that policy but whether we will endure as a free republic in which presidents recognize they are not monarchs. It’s absurd to say of Trump “we will work with him where we can” when the project on which they’d be “working with him” involves shattering the rule of law and making it impossible for government workers to do the jobs Americans expect them to carry out.

Democrats who want to save the nation — and their party — need to end their malaise, mobilize their supporters and fight for something that matters. If our constitutional democracy doesn’t matter, I don’t know what does.

No party prospers by looking weak, and nothing would be more feckless than awaiting a more politically convenient moment to take on opponents demolishing institutions and rights at warp speed. History teaches that political movements often discover what they are *for* by first being clear about what they are *against*. Franklin D. Roosevelt built the New Deal coalition by opposing concentrated economic power and highlighting the human costs of a form of capitalism with weak guardrails and a paltry safety net. Ronald Reagan unraveled the New Deal coalition with his three antis — anti-government, anti-tax, and anti-communism. In both cases, the power of negative thinking created paths to sweeping affirmative agendas.

If the Democrats’ claim that they were fighting for democracy in 2024 seemed too abstract for many voters before Jan. 20, it is terrifyingly concrete now. Trump is laying the groundwork for a more authoritarian scheme of government by undermining the legal system, ignoring the plain language of the Constitution and violating statutes. If you wanted to make our country weaker and less safe, you would move quickly to undermine the FBI, the CIA and the Defense Department — which is what Trump is doing with his appointments and targeted firings.

Trump’s spending freeze was a reminder that while government is far from



KENT NISHIMURA/REUTERS

Demonstrators rally last week against Elon Musk’s gaining access to the U.S. Treasury’s federal payments system.

perfect, Americans still value much of what it does. As Republican senator (and future defense secretary) Bill Cohen said many years ago, “Government is the enemy until you need a friend.” When it became clear that child-care centers, Meals on Wheels, housing and health programs, and countless other services were threatened, Trump was forced to back away, at least temporarily, from the ineptly drafted order. The episode, Rep. Jim Himes (D-Connecticut) told MSNBC’s Lawrence O’Donnell, encapsulated the Trump regime — “a perfect mixture of brutality with incompetence.” Democrats take note: You can actually win if you actually fight.

Trump and Musk’s efforts to dismantle government regulation should galvanize an argument Democrats have been reluctant to make. The Musks of the world want you to believe that “regulation” is a horrible word that means red tape, bureaucracy and inefficiency. But regulations are rules to protect consumers, workers and things of value (clean air and water, bank deposits, food safety) in ways that the market by itself will not. As Trump and Musk sweep away regulations, a smart opposition would show how their deregulatory fervor is serving corporate interests at the expense of citizens.

For example: Trump fired Rohit Chopra, director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, an agency created in the wake of the Great Recession to protect Americans from financial scams and dodgy practices. Before Chopra was forced out, he and his colleagues left behind a number of new rules — capping overdraft fees, giving consumers more access to their financial data, excluding medical debt from credit reports — that most Americans would welcome if they had ever heard about them.

But Trump and Musk want to eviscerate the financial rights of consumers. Late Friday, Musk signaled an end to the

agency, which he has no legal right to shut down, with a post on X — “CFPB RIP.” Hours later, Trump put Office of Management and Budget director and Project 2025 svengali Russell Vought in charge of the agency, a sure sign he wants it terminated. On Saturday morning, the CFPB’s homepage no longer existed. The public outcry should be loud and persistent. And Trump’s firings have disabled the Nation-

A smart opposition would show how Trump and Musk’s deregulatory fervor is serving corporate interests at the expense of citizens.

al Labor Relations Board by depriving it of a quorum. It now has no way of enforcing labor law and protecting workers’ rights. That’s his reward to the many working-class voters who helped elect him.

Democrats have a bad habit of pulling back from thorny matters by saying: “Oh, voters don’t really care about this issue.” What Republicans understand is that voters often notice an issue only if a party is persistent enough in forcing it into the public conversation. The trans debate and Hunter Biden’s problems were hardly front of mind for most voters. Republicans worked hard to put them there.

Citizens in large numbers will start noticing how truly radical Trump’s designs are only when Democrats find dramatic ways of standing up to them — and linking them to issues voters care about. Sens. Brian Schatz (D-Hawaii) and Chris Van Hollen (D-Maryland) offered a useful example of public defiance when they announced a blanket hold on all of

Trump’s State Department nominees until the administration reverses Elon Musk’s shutdown of the U.S. Agency for International Development. In the House, the GOP’s divisions and flimsy majority give Democrats the opportunity to play hardball, particularly on budget bills. Anyway, what’s the point of Congress laying out a spending plan if Trump and Musk will just ignore it? Of course, Republicans who control Congress should also be up in arms about the Trump-Musk incursion on their authority. But since they’re falling into line behind a surrender to the executive branch, Democrats have no choice but to make the Trumpist GOP’s going as difficult as possible.

Americans may not think a lot about Congress’s Article I powers, government employees or foreign aid, but they do worry about their privacy (what are Musk and his tech bros doing with all the information they’re gathering?), corruption (ditto), and what these cuts could mean for their health care, the education of their kids and the nation’s security. USAID may not be on the radar of a lot of people, but as Sen. Chris Murphy (D-Connecticut) pointed out, its assistance “contests China all over the world when China is trying to gain influence in Africa and in South America” — and thus checks “the ability of China to command the rules of the global economy.” Trump and Musk should be pressed on why they are choosing to make China’s Communist government happy.

Of course, Democrats need to face up to their own problems. They do have a lousy “brand,” are hemorrhaging working-class votes at an alarming rate and need to find a more unifying way of talking about cultural issues. In 2024, they failed to grapple with prices and immigration.

But the best immediate answer to these challenges and the best way to

occupy the broad middle ground is to call out Trump’s radicalism and his lack of focus on what swing voters care about.

Trump’s obvious indifference to rising costs should, as party strategist James Carville has argued, be at the center of Democratic accountability efforts. Trump, after all, promised to “slash your prices” and bring down “the price of everything.” But his priorities — revenge, political control of the administration of justice, the intimidation of civil servants, and, for that matter, takeovers of Greenland and Gaza — have nothing to do with lowering what consumers pay for groceries, gas or housing. His tariffs will only make inflation rise.

Trump may have profited from attacking Kamala Harris for her views on transgender issues, but the preoccupation with “gender ideology” in executive orders that often read like campaign propaganda suggests an obsession that most voters don’t share. He’s leaving progressives with plenty of running room for a cultural politics of live-and-let-live. The same is true with a fixation on diversity, equity and inclusion programs that is crossing the line into a rejection of *all* efforts (environmental justice initiatives, for example) to fight racial discrimination.

If the past is any guide, Trump will vastly exceed the public’s appetite for rounding up and expelling immigrants. Yes, Americans want to control the southern border. But they want order and humanity, not chaos and cruelty. They favor neither open borders nor a complete halt to the immigration most Americans know we need. Trump’s base may love his callous approach to migrants. The voters who will decide coming elections prefer sensible and decent solutions. Democrats should use the coming years to offer them.

An alert reader might say that much of what’s being proposed here sounds a lot like “the resistance” to the first Trump presidency. That is precisely what is needed now — more, even, than the last time around.

Sure, the term was a little precious, but what’s forgotten is that the first resistance was effective. It helped save the Affordable Care Act, end Republican control of the House, flip seven governorships, and elect hundreds to legislatures and local offices. Legions of smart lawyers repelled many of Trump’s abuses — and this time around, the legal profession has been at the forefront of the early victories against his maneuvers, including Saturday’s ruling restricting the Musk group’s access to Treasury Department data.

Theda Skocpol, a Harvard political scientist who studied the anti-Trump movement, noted recently in the New Republic that what worked the last time were the “persistent, community-based efforts by 2,000 to 3,000 grassroots Resistance groups in every town, city, and suburb across virtually all congressional districts.” The events of the past three weeks summon Americans again to diners, churches, libraries, union halls and taverns to organize, to pressure their elected officials (especially the 15 House Republicans who won last year by five percentage points or less), and to reach out to their friends and neighbors to warn them about what Trump is doing to their democracy.

“Move fast and break things” is the tech slogan inspiring what Trump and Musk are doing to our government and our constitutional arrangements. Those who want to stop their wrecking ball need to act with the same urgency.

RUTH MARCUS

As Trump hoards power, GOP lawmakers sit on their hands

Are there no red lines? Are there no limits?

Angus King, the independent senator from Maine who caucuses with Democrats, posed this gut-punching query to his Republican colleagues last week as they prepared to vote to confirm Russell Vought, the presidential power extremist Donald Trump tapped for a second tour of duty as the head of the Office of Management and Budget.

King’s question contained unmistakable echoes of Army lawyer Joseph Welch’s challenge to demagogue Joseph McCarthy: “Have you no sense of decency, sir, at long last?” At one point, King directly channeled Welch, referencing Elon Musk’s boast that he had spent the weekend “feeding USAID into the wood chipper,” an action that, as King noted, “will literally take food from the mouths of starving children.”

“Forget red lines,” King said. “Do we have no decency?”

But as much as Welch’s question helped trigger McCarthy’s demise, it is depressingly difficult to see how King’s remarks, however powerful, could have a similarly beneficial effect.

These days, there are no red lines for any but a few Republicans, and then only the faintest. Not a single one — not King’s fellow Mainer, Sen. Susan Collins, not Sen. Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, not the seemingly liberated former majority

leader, Sen. Mitch McConnell of Kentucky — defected from the party-line vote to confirm Vought.

This about a man who, as King reminded his colleagues, would usurp their most fundamental power: to decide how to spend taxpayers’ money. Who has declared that “we are living in a ‘post constitutional’ time in which a ‘Radical Constitutionalism’ is needed to reassert untrammelled presidential authority. Who is an architect of Project 2025, the plan to reshape federal government and the constitutional order.

Directing OMB sounds like the wonkiest of jobs, but Vought’s plan for the post, already underway, is to use it to execute an unprecedented — and unconstitutional — power grab. He is, said King, “the last person who should be put in the heart of the operation of our government.”

But King’s speech was less about Vought than about the existential peril to the constitutional order, the system of checks and balances that has protected our democracy for nearly 250 years.

The Constitution, King warned, “is under the most direct and consequential assault in our nation’s history. An assault not on a particular provision but on the essential structure of the Constitution itself.”

“So the concern I’m raising today isn’t some academic exercise or manifestation of political jealousy or abstract institu-

tional loyalty. It is the guts of the system designed to protect us from the inevitable — and I mean inevitable — abuse of an authoritarian state.”

To grasp the significance of this speech, it’s important to understand King, a former two-term governor just reelected to his third term in the Senate. The 80-year-old King shares the

In the nine years since Trump seized control of the Republican Party, conscience has been in short supply.

independent-caucusing-with-Democrats label with his Vermont neighbor Bernie Sanders, but the two politicians could not be more different in temperament or ideology. If Sanders is a bomb-thrower, King is a soother. A 2022 GovTrack ranking of voting records found Sanders to be the most liberal senator, with King in the middle of the pack, at 42nd most liberal.

So King’s uncharacteristically biting words had the prospect, at least, of getting Republican senators’ attention, if not altering their behavior. “Don’t stand aside in the midst of these confirmations,

ill-considered foreign policy pronouncements, flood of executive orders ... and ignore the steady and not-so-slow usurpation of congressional authority and fundamental alteration of the framers’ scheme,” King urged.

Again and again, he asked his colleagues: *Shouldn’t this be a red line? Isn’t this an obvious red line — or are there no limits? Shouldn’t this be an easy red line?*

He warned of “the literal destruction of a statutorily established and funded federal agency by people ostensibly working for the President under vague authority, no transparency, and certainly no guidance from the Congress.” Of “the power seemingly assumed by DOGE to burrow into the Treasury’s payment system, or the Office of Personnel Management ... for undefined purposes and zero oversight raising questions up to and including threats to national security.”

King told me in a telephone interview a few days after the speech that his goal was twofold: to “cut through all the smoke and hoo-rah about Musk and DOGE and the Gulf of Mexico to the bigger picture of what’s actually going on” and “to try to catch the conscience of the Republicans and get through to them that this is a serious matter.”

Was anyone listening? Can lawmakers be roused to stand up to Trump — or at least to defend their institutional prerogatives and the separation of powers — in

an era when resistance might mean facing not only a primary challenge but also one fueled by Elon Musk’s millions? The Madisonian expectation that one branch of government would jealously assert its prerogatives against encroachment by a rival branch has been overtaken by the tribalism of modern political parties and the growing gusher of money in the political system.

Self-preservation is the first rule of politics, and conscience has been in short supply for the nine years during which Trump has seized control of the Republican Party. To hope that will change now, when his behavior is ever more heedless of legal boundaries, is understandable; to expect it, when his power is at its apex, would be naive.

King told me he sent the speech to several Republican colleagues. Their response was telling: “Well, Joe Biden tried to cancel student loans.” This reflexive whataboutism, King said, is “like comparing a fender bender to a head-on collision. Presidents are always nibbling around the edges of trying to obtain additional authority.” Meantime, Trump is barreling through all guardrails.

“They’re rationalizing,” King said of GOP lawmakers. “They’re rationalizing allowing this to happen.” But, he added, “If this continues and we have a fundamental rewriting of the separation of powers, history is not going to treat those well who were complicit.”

OPINION

The Washington Post

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

An invitation to corruption

ON MONDAY, President Donald Trump signed an executive order to pause enforcement of the federal law that makes it a crime for U.S. businesses to bribe foreign officials. The same day, he issued a full pardon to former Illinois governor Rod Blagojevich for trying to sell a U.S. Senate appointment, and the Justice Department ordered that public corruption charges against New York Mayor Eric Adams be dropped.

EDITORIAL Taken together, these moves signal the new administration's intention to tolerate corruption — at least by the president's allies.

FBI wiretaps caught Blagojevich discussing how to profit off his “golden” ticket when a Senate seat opened as Barack Obama became president. He also shook down the CEO of a children's hospital for \$25,000 in exchange for approving reimbursement policies, and he sought \$100,000 in kickbacks to sign a bill for the horse racing industry. In 2020, Trump released the former “Celebrity Apprentice” contestant from prison after he had served only eight years of a 14-year term. Blagojevich further ingratiated himself with the president by saying he understood firsthand what it's like to be persecuted by federal prosecutors.

This argument clearly resonates with Trump, and it helps explain, as well, his decision to let Adams off the hook. In September, Adams pleaded not guilty to charges that he allegedly accepted luxury travel and

illegal foreign campaign contributions in exchange for performing official acts, such as rushing the approval of a new Turkish consulate in Manhattan that inspectors warned was unsafe. Only a few weeks ago, the prosecutor's office (now directed to dismiss the charges) said in a court filing that it had uncovered “additional criminal conduct” by the mayor. But Adams, a Democrat, has absurdly claimed that the Justice Department charged him because he was opposed to President Joe Biden's immigration policy.

Most seismic of all, however, is Trump's order that Attorney General Pam Bondi stop bringing prosecutions under the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act until she formulates new enforcement guidelines. This post-Watergate reform measure has been called the “crown jewel” in America's fight against global corruption, but Trump has long criticized it. In his first term, he mused about repealing the law, but then-Secretary of State Rex Tillerson — who had been chief executive of ExxonMobil — voiced his opposition.

For almost half a century, the FCPA has been enormously effective at deterring bad behavior by multinationals. Being able to point to severe consequences if they pay bribes routinely gives U.S. businesses cover to refuse to do so, which helps keep costs down. Moreover, the U.S. government has used the law effectively to target foreign companies, such as Swiss commodities giant Glencore, and punish bad behavior by big banks, including Goldman Sachs for

its role in the looting of a Malaysian government fund. But the president says it's not fair that American companies cannot pay bribes, because it puts them at a disadvantage in competing for new business. “It was a Jimmy Carter concept, and it sounds so good, but it's so bad,” Trump said on Monday.

The president says it's not fair that American companies cannot pay bribes because it puts them at a disadvantage in competing for new business.

The president himself has significant foreign business interests. The Trump Organization, from which he has not divested, recently signed deals for hotels and golf resorts in Vietnam, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

In October, shortly before the election, defense contractor RTX agreed to a deal with the Justice Department to pay nearly \$1 billion to resolve charges involving inflated federal contracts and foreign bribery. The company, formerly known as Raytheon,

admitted that its employees had engaged in a scheme to bribe a high-level Qatari air force official between 2012 and 2016, in violation of the FCPA. If the administration declares it will look the other way, such payoffs are likely to become routine. Who benefits from this?

Trump's pattern of tolerating bad behavior is especially troubling against the backdrop of his attempt to fire the head of the Office of Special Counsel, which enforces the Hatch Act prohibiting federal employees from engaging in partisan activities on the job, as well as the head of the Office of Government Ethics. (Late Monday, a judge ordered the fired head of the special counsel's office temporarily reinstated while he challenges his removal.) Recall, too, last month's purge of more than a dozen inspectors general, in violation of congressional statute.

Trump also recently signed an executive order that rescinded Biden's prohibition on executive branch employees accepting major gifts from lobbyists and ended his two-year cooling-off period for registered lobbyists joining the executive branch (and vice versa). So much for “draining the swamp.” The courts might already be overwhelmed with legal challenges, and the GOP-controlled Congress wants to avoid any showdowns with this president, but it's vital that judges and lawmakers perform their constitutional duty to check the executive branch. It's the only way to prevent the United States from descending into a golden age of corruption.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Only one cure for Democrats’ woes

I largely agree with Rahm Emanuel's argument in his Feb. 3 op-ed, “For Democrats, poison ...,” that Democrats need to do a better job finding common ground with voters on policies such as safety and immigration. But I believe his clique of insiders has to accept responsibility for the role it played making the party become more out of touch with voters.

Emanuel was Barack Obama's chief of staff during a portion of Obama's first term, and he muzzled and marginalized Organizing for America without integrating it into the Democratic Party effectively. The new president of the Association of State Democratic Committees, Nebraska's Jane Kleeb, recalled that Emanuel previously dismissed the Young Democrats of America as nonvoters and referred to her husband's cowboy hat as a “costume.” And the tendency of the Democratic Party to treat its own coalition as, in Obama's first campaign manager David Plouffe's words, an “ATM machine,” led to a culture that hijacked digital tools for endless fundraising asks instead of investing in year-round social networks and rapid response on issues.

As a result, Democrats ignored movements from Occupy Wall Street to campaigns by Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vermont) to free the Palestinian territories instead of proactively building relationships with young people, and then were surprised when young people rejected calls for intraparty peace and unity. And as the party got in the habit of not engaging key portions of the base, it also became less able to engage low-propensity and working-class voters of various backgrounds.

Democrats can rightfully blame former president Joe Biden for not seeing that his age made his reelection untenable. But a lack of assertiveness from party leaders such as Emanuel, who should have spoken up sooner, was part of the problem. If Democrats truly believe in fighting for democracy, they need to demand accountability within their own ranks, because the highest priority of the party should be winning.

Jim McBride, Centreville
The writer is a former candidate for DNC Vice Chair of Civic Engagement and Voter Participation.

Come on, Democratic caucus!

Democrats: I'm really confused by the defeatist attitude captured in Karen Tumulty's Feb. 3 op-ed, “and antidote?,” in which Democratic Party leaders outlined a plan to “mobilize... message strategically [and] litigate where we can,” and focus on updating technology and a better media message. Oh, and invest in state races.

So members of Congress are going to just sit on their hands for two years? Did they lose the ability to introduce legislation and push for votes on bills?

Would it be so hard for Democrats in Congress to introduce a bill prohibiting changes to Social Security? Either congressional Republicans will back that proposal or, if they won't even consider it, they'll give Democrats the opportunity to remind voters in the midterms that in 2024, the Republican Study Committee proposed raising the retirement age and partially privatizing Medicare.

Would it be so hard for Democrats in Congress to introduce a bill eliminating taxes on tips and Social Security benefits, campaign promises that were noticeably missing from an early Republican tax-and-budget proposal? Either Republicans will vote for it — yay! — or they won't, which gives Democrats the opportunity to remind voters in the midterms that Republicans are for cutting taxes for the wealthy but not for lower-income earners or seniors.

I'm not asking Democrats to rewrite the Magna Carta or find a way to get Elon Musk to settle down and stay out of the nation's business. But current members of Congress have to at least try this no-brainer stuff that either passes or generates great talking points for Democrats in the midterms.

Either outcome would be more invigorating for the party than just sitting around waiting for the next shoe to drop.

Linda Falcao, North Wales, Pennsylvania

DRAWING BOARD



Perceptions and reality

In his Feb. 5 op-ed, “Can Democrats learn to hear America?,” Jonathan Capehart wrote that Democrats suffer from the perception that they are “overly fixated on identity rather than solutions.”

Can there really be any doubt that this perception is also the reality? As Capehart reported, in the process of ultimately choosing their new chair, almost all of the candidates for Democratic National Committee chair expressed support for designating seats specifically for transgender and Muslim appointees in various DNC roles. More substantively, many voters believe that the party's leniency on border enforcement, crime, drugs and homelessness is best understood as fear of being perceived as elitist and racist by its progressive base. Indeed, as Capehart suggests, the party has plenty of work ahead to convince a majority of Americans it truly cares about solutions over symbolism. However, that will require a healthy infusion of policy centrism over fears of progressive perception and quests for representational purity.

Tim Parker, Baltimore

Charisma matters

I was energized reading Dan Balz's Feb. 2 analysis, “Democrats are in trouble, and a provocative analysis offers ideas.” It seems to me that the principal

paradox here is that the very beneficiaries of Democratic policies and programs did not seem to appreciate those efforts, and Democrats are baffled at what seems like a lack of gratitude. Working-class voters are largely the targets of Democratic policies, but we lost them. Many Black and Hispanic men seem to have also jumped ship.

But what if the real issue isn't policy but charisma? John F. Kennedy had charisma, and so did Ronald Reagan, Bill Clinton and Barack Obama. Many voters seem to base their choices simply on whether they like the candidate and then, as a second step, find policy reasons to support that decision. In an election closely fought by the Democrats on the issues, charisma carried the day.

The Democrats have a lot of work and analysis to do to more precisely identify what voters actually want, because we whiffed on our assumptions. But I think charisma turned the recent election, and Democrats need to prioritize it.

Dan Lounberg, Arlington

Abandonment in action

In Dan Balz's analysis of Democrats' electoral chances, he correctly points out that the party has taken certain groups of voters for granted. As a trans person, I would like to point out that we have noticed the deafening silence from Democratic lawmakers as

the administration works to systematically erase our rights and health care. As a Virginia voter, I noticed that Sens. Tim Kaine and Mark R. Warner both voted to pass, and former president Joe Biden signed, a National Defense Authorization Act that stripped Tricare insurance coverage for gender-affirming care for trans children whose parents serve in the military. We have been blamed for then-Vice President Kamala Harris's loss despite barely featuring in her campaign.

Why should I or any other queer person donate to, campaign with or vote for Democrats moving forward? Don't take our votes for granted.

Jay Bennett, Alexandria

Truth matters

Dan Balz explored an analysis that cited “the inflationary effects of Biden's spending programs” and the perception that “immigrants drain national resources” as critical causes for the Democratic losses in November. But immigrants do not strain the budget. Biden's spending programs were, at most, responsible for a small fraction of the high inflation.

That Democrats failed to effectively get these facts across during the campaign made these perceptions huge factors in their defeat. Though some news publications have pointed out this misinformation, many swing voters do not get their news from those outlets, making it imperative for Democrats to clearly communicate the truth through other channels. While it may have been difficult for Democrats to debunk these ideas without seeming to be making excuses, not refuting misinformation confirms it in many people's minds.

Rick Smith, Triangle, Virginia

Seriously?

The Democratic Party's post-election analysis illuminated their need to win back working-class Americans. One of Democrats' first demonstrations of resistance to the party that won the working class away from them was to take to the streets in defense of foreign aid. Good luck with that strategy.

Janie Wagstaff, Roxboro, North Carolina

Examples from abroad

A leader of the opposition with a “party platform” and a “shadow cabinet” are powerful tools opposition parties in parliamentary systems can use to command public attention, demonstrate party unity and harness the talents of their key leaders.

In this time of incredible crisis in this country, Democrats lack comparable systems for demonstrating their leadership and unity — and for communicating their proposed solutions to the massive assault on our core beliefs and traditions. The problem is not so much the message; it is the absence of mechanisms through which leaders from all parts of the party can collaborate and mount a unified defense of the Constitution, the rule of law, and the policies Americans want and need.

One possibility would be the creation of a party-wide coalition composed of the Democratic leaders of the Senate and House, the Democratic Governors Association and Democratic National Committee, and former presidents of the United States. It would be especially effective if it were chaired by former president Barack Obama, who is broadly respected within the party and outside it as a unifier with unique ability to command public attention — and who no longer has political ambitions of his own to pursue. Creation of such a vehicle would dramatically change the political debate and give Democrats and other Americans time to rebuild the strong, vibrant democratic forces we desperately need.

Andrew Mott, Chevy Chase

Letter submissions

Letters can be sent to **letters@washpost.com**. Submissions must be exclusive to The Post and should include the writer's address and day and evening telephone numbers. We are unable to acknowledge submissions; writers whose letters are under consideration for publication will be contacted.

OPINION

LEANA S. WEN

The ‘parks & rec’ solution to youth obesity

The Trump administration has promised that addressing childhood obesity will be a key part of its “Make America Healthy Again” agenda. That’s much easier said than done. We know how to treat obesity, but because 1 in 5 kids and teens have the condition, families often struggle to access the limited facilities available for treatment. And though GLP-1 medications such as Wegovy have shown much promise for weight loss, they remain prohibitively expensive for many and should not be the first-line choice for most young people.

Fortunately, new research in the journal Pediatrics suggests there is a low-cost and widely accessible way to tackle this public health problem: Refer kids to their local parks and recreation agencies.

The idea is simple, but it could dramatically expand access to pediatric obesity treatment. For years, the gold standard has been “intensive health behavior and lifestyle treatment,” in which pediatricians refer children to specialized obesity treatment clinics, which are generally located in academic medical centers. There, patients receive a minimum of 26 hours of interdisciplinary care over three to 12 months that includes family counseling, group physical activity, nutrition education, food preparation, and other skill building and support.

Though this method has been shown to work, it’s difficult to deliver. As Sarah C. Armstrong, a pediatric obesity specialist at Duke University School of Medicine and lead author of the Pediatrics study, explained to me, many children with obesity don’t live close to facilities that offer these services, which often have long waiting lists. And dedicating as many as two hours a week to obesity treatment is not practical for parents who must balance child care with work and other priorities.

“If we’re going to improve health at the population level, we really need to make sure we have interventions that work for all Americans,” Armstrong said. So she and her colleagues designed a new approach that draws upon the principles of existing treatment strategies but can also be deployed at scale.

In the program, called Fit Together, primary-care pediatricians serve as the referral point, screening patients for obesity and treating them for medical conditions such as asthma, high blood pressure and diabetes. But instead of enrolling them in a hospital-based program, they rely on recreation programs, which are “really ubiquitous throughout the United States,” Armstrong said, including in underserved communities.

Many already have nutrition and fitness programs, and it’s much easier for pediatricians to send patients there than find them a spot in a specialized clinic. Moreover, kids might find it less stigmatizing — and more fun — to go to a community recreation center rather than a hospital.

Does this clinic-community partnership work to reduce obesity? The results from the clever study by Armstrong’s team are promising. They randomized a racially diverse group of 5-to-17-year-olds into two groups. The control group received basic counseling on obesity management from their pediatricians. The intervention group participated in Fit Together, which involved monthly clinic visits, physical activity sessions twice a week, and a nutrition and cooking class once a week.

Six months later, kids in the latter group had significant reductions in body mass index (BMI), while those in the control group did not. Participant surveys were very positive, Armstrong told me: In addition to weight loss, the program helped the children “build confidence and self-esteem and willingness to get out there and try new things.”

Armstrong hopes this real-world effectiveness study will persuade insurance companies to cover these community referrals. Armstrong said the total cost of Fit Together for a whole year — including staff time and supplies for cooking demonstrations — is \$150 per child. That’s much lower than treating obesity with medications (which could cost as much as \$1,400 a month) and incomparable to the costs of downstream medical complications associated with obesity, including diabetes, heart disease, cancer, arthritis and depression.

Armstrong acknowledges that some children could benefit from GLP-1 medications. But such patients still need lifestyle modifications as part of their treatments, so community recreation centers could be just as essential for them as for kids being treated with nutrition counseling and physical activity alone. And these programs are important for children who don’t yet have overweight or obesity by teaching and reinforcing healthy behaviors.

As senators scrutinize President Donald Trump’s nominees for top federal health positions, I hope they will ask about studies such as this one that demonstrate low-cost, pragmatic approaches to reducing childhood obesity. If they really want to address the root causes of chronic illnesses, they should be finding ways not to cut safety-net programs such as Medicaid and the Children’s Health Insurance Program but to use them to support real solutions.



Protesters in Yerevan, Armenia, rally on Sept. 30, 2023, in support of Ruben Vardanyan.

DAVID IGNATIUS

A philanthropist on trial

With so much suffering in the world, individual cases can get lost. But I want to explain the plight of a man named Ruben Vardanyan, who is a political prisoner on trial in Azerbaijan and is facing a life sentence — and whose case deserves greater attention.

Vardanyan’s crime, if you can call it that, is that he championed Armenian resistance in Nagorno-Karabakh, a remote region in the Caucasus that is legally part of Azerbaijan but whose population was once largely Armenian and self-governing. Not anymore: The region’s 120,000 Armenians fled in September 2023 when Azerbaijani troops invaded. Vardanyan was arrested as he tried to cross the border into Armenia.

Vardanyan is an unlikely martyr. He is a businessman who made money as an investment banker in the wild early days of post-Soviet Russia — and then began giving it away to good causes. In 2014, he founded an international school in Dilijan, Armenia, to connect his small and fragile country with the world. And in 2015, he co-founded a human rights group called the Aurora Humanitarian Initiative, whose supporters include such luminaries as George Clooney, former U.N. high commissioner Mary Robinson and several Nobel laureates.

Aurora’s motto is “Gratitude in action.” Vardanyan’s idea was to honor people around the world who are selflessly helping others in our time — just as decent people had saved his great-grandfather Hamayak Vardanyan during the Armenian genocide in 1915. Rather than looking back in anger on that terrible event, Vardanyan wanted to look forward in hope, by celebrating what’s best in the human spirit.

I should make clear that I’m not a neutral observer of Vardanyan’s case. He has been my friend for a decade, and I’ve served as unpaid master of ceremonies for Aurora’s annual awards ceremony since 2016. It’s personal: My father’s family is Armenian and, by helping Aurora, I wanted to share my own gratitude for those who saved my ancestors in Ottoman times.

To give you a sense of Aurora’s work, here’s a quick sketch of the people it has

honored since 2016: a Tutsi woman in Burundi who rescued Hutu victims there; an American physician in the Nuba mountains in Sudan who treated patients in that remote killing ground; a Rohingya Muslim lawyer who protected his people during the slaughter in Myanmar; a Yazidi activist who rescued kinsmen being murdered by the Islamic State; two Somali women who saved victims of sexual violence in Mogadishu, and a female activist and a doctor, both Congolese, who saved rape victims.

I can remember each of these people as they took the stage at the Aurora awards ceremony. They were often awkward, with little experience speaking in public, unaccustomed to taking credit for their work. Each year, I would come away from these ceremonies grateful for the enduring, inexplicable goodness in the human spirit that produces heroes like these. Vardanyan and the other two Aurora co-founders, the late Carnegie Corp. president Vartan Gregorian and Moderna co-founder Noubar Afeyan, were always humble in the presence of these humanitarians.

Vardanyan’s trial began a week ago in Baku. Azerbaijan has brought 46 charges against him, ranging from terrorism to organized crime. But his troubles really stem from his decision to move to Karabakh in 2022 and become a senior minister in the break-away government there, as well as an outspoken defender of the Armenian population. Throwing himself into this vortex was dangerous. But Vardanyan told his daughter that he couldn’t live with himself if he didn’t try to help fellow Armenians who have suffered so many tragedies in their history. It was gratitude in action.

Disaster followed. Azerbaijan imposed a blockade in December 2022, starving Karabakh of medicine, fuel and other essentials. Armenians tried to protect their homes, families and churches. But when Azerbaijan’s military invaded in September 2023 they fled, leaving the region ethnically “cleansed.” Vardanyan has been in an Azerbaijani prison cell ever since, along with three former presidents of Karabakh.

“Ruben was obsessed about saving Karabakh’s Armenian character, and he paid with his freedom for that dedication,” says his friend Vahan Zanoian, an Armenian American energy consultant who now lives in Armenia. Ten days before Azerbaijan’s invasion, Zanoian phoned and urged Vardanyan to leave. He refused. Zanoian texted him again as troops entered Karabakh’s capital. By then, it was too late.

An Amnesty International official said last month that Vardanyan’s case “has raised serious allegations of human rights violations which include ill-treatment in detention, being coerced to sign falsified case materials and denied the opportunity to prepare his defense.” The statement by Marie Struthers, the group’s director for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, urged: “The international community must closely monitor this high-profile case, to ensure Ruben Vardanyan’s fair trial rights and justice.”

Jared Genser, a prominent American human rights lawyer who is representing Vardanyan, hasn’t been allowed to visit his client in prison. “This is a political show trial,” he told me. “It’s a result of his advocacy for the political rights of the people of Nagorno-Karabakh.”

Most Americans don’t know much about Armenia, let alone the Karabakh conflict. But here’s a central fact: Armenia was the first nation in the world to adopt Christianity, and it has paid dearly for its faith in a predominantly Muslim region. Vardanyan himself is a faithful Armenian Orthodox Christian, but he has always been ecumenical in spirit. Indeed, many of the humanitarians who received the Aurora prize have been Muslims.

As Vardanyan’s trial moves forward, perhaps he will have a friend in Washington. President Donald Trump said in a Truth Social post on Oct. 23: “When I am President, I will protect persecuted Christians, I will work to stop the violence and ethnic cleansing, and we will restore PEACE between Armenia and Azerbaijan.”

Here’s your chance to deliver on that promise, Mr. President, by helping a decent man escape persecution.

CATHERINE RAMPPELL

Crusading against ... religious liberty?

At a mosque in the Bronx, African immigrants who had been regulars have stopped attending prayer services. At a church just outside Boston, where most congregants are of Haitian descent, roughly two-thirds of parishioners have vanished. At multiple Baptist congregations in the South, pastors are considering locking church doors once services begin.

Their common fear: That immigration agents will bust in and arrest congregants mid-prayer.

That’s because President Donald Trump recently gave Immigration and Customs Enforcement the go-ahead to conduct raids at houses of worship. That directive is now the target of two major lawsuits, the second of which was filed Tuesday morning. Plaintiffs in the suits include dozens of faith groups, from Pentecostals to Sikhs to Quakers to Jews, who believe the Trump administration is trampling their religious freedom.

This might seem ironic, given that Trump has signed multiple executive orders purporting to “reduce burdens on the free exercise of religion” and protect people of faith. In reality, he and his allies have launched an aggressive assault on religious liberty — or at least, the liberty to practice a religion that isn’t precisely their own.

The offensive began with attacks on specific faith leaders. Trump lashed out at the Right Rev. Mariann Budde, Episcopal bishop of Washington, for having the gall to ask him “to have mercy upon the people in our country who are scared now.” Rep. Mike Collins (R-Georgia) even demanded that she be deported. (Budde was born in New Jersey, which, to be fair, can sometimes feel like a foreign country.)

Then, Vice President JD Vance accused the Catholic Church, without evidence, of improperly receiving “over \$100 million to help resettle illegal immigrants.” Elon Musk laid out Lutheran organizations, declaring that DOGE would end allegedly “illegal” payments to the Lutheran groups that run food pantries and care for homeless people.

But by far the most serious encroachment on religious liberty is Trump’s decision to overturn a long-standing directive against conducting immigration raids at “protected” or “sensitive” locations, such as schools, hospitals, day cares and churches.

The guidance had been in place in some form since at least 1993, under Republican and Democratic administrations alike. It allowed enforcement actions at houses of worship only under exigent circumstances or with prior written, high-level supervisory approval. The new Trump policy instead gives ICE agents unfettered authority to storm religious sites, constrained only by individual agents’ own subjective “common sense.”

So far, ICE has not yet raided a house of worship, although one church seems to have been targeted. In Tucker, Georgia, ICE agents arrested a Honduran man — an immigrant who had permission to live and work in the United States while his asylum application proceeded — when he stepped outside during Sunday services. He was at the church with his wife and children.

But Trump’s directive might be curbing religious expression even without agents entering a church. Mere rumors of enforcement can chill attendance.

For instance, members of a multicultural Methodist church in Glenmont, Maryland, were recently spooked when law enforcement officers parked their unmarked vehicles at the church during a regularly scheduled food-distribution event. Turns out police were there for an *unrelated* operation nearby. Nevertheless, talk of an ICE raid quickly spread and scared congregants away from participating in other church events, said the church’s pastor, the Rev. Kelly Grimes.

“This policy essentially has the impact of determining who has access to the message of Jesus, the life of the church and participation in the Lord’s Supper,” said the Rev. Paul Baxley, executive coordinator of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, which represents about 1,400 affiliated congregations nationwide. “Or if you’re Roman Catholic, the Mass, or if you’re Episcopalian, the Eucharist, which is supposed to be a meal for all disciples of Jesus — regardless of nationality.”

These concerns motivated the lawsuits arguing that Trump’s directive violates both the Religious Freedom Restoration Act and the First Amendment. “To take actions that make followers of Jesus hesitant to be in worship, to be at that table, is I think a really significant offense to the religious liberty of congregations and the core of the Christian faith,” Baxley said.

Baxley and other religious leaders I interviewed in recent weeks expressed concern not only about the infringement of religious liberty of immigrant worshipers, but of native-born Americans, as well. For instance, physically communing with the other believers in one’s community is a central part of the Quaker faith. “We lose something vital in our religious exercise when people are in fear and unable to gather,” explained Noah Merrill, secretary of the New England Yearly Meeting of Friends, another plaintiff.

In many religions — including my own, Judaism — welcoming the stranger or ministering to the refugee is itself an expression of faith. Now, clergy report that some U.S.-citizen congregants are reluctant to volunteer in English as a Second Language classes, feeding ministries and clothing distributions, for fear of putting a target on their own backs, too.

“This is exactly what religious liberty means,” New York Episcopal Bishop Matthew Heyd said at a recent Lower East Side church event. He gestured to the church volunteers nearby serving hot food to immigrants who congregate there weekly. Some of the immigrants in attendance wore crosses; others in a corner prayed to Mecca. “*This* is exactly expression of our faith.”

In Trump’s America, such an act of faith has become increasingly dangerous.

RAMESH PONNURU

Abolish the ‘abolish Education’ movement

Will President Donald Trump abolish the Education Department? This question is drawing new attention because the president has said that his nominee to lead the department, Linda McMahon, is supposed “to put herself out of a job.” But I have a better one: How much difference would it really make if the department were gone?

Advocates of the department spare no hyperbole in their forecasts. It would “destroy our public school system and destroy the futures of millions of kids across this country,” claims Rep. Maxwell Frost, a Democrat from Florida. Becky Pringle, head of the National Education Association, says it would amount to “giving up on our future.”

Conservatives have opposed the department since its birth during the Carter administration, seeing it as federal overreach. President Ronald Reagan and House speaker Newt Gingrich both tried to end it and failed. During his time as president, George W. Bush dropped the idea because it was unpopular and because of his ambitions to use the department to reform K-12 education across the country.

Now, Trump has revived the campaign. But the prospect is a lot less momentous than anyone involved in the debate wants to admit.

The main reason: Most proposals to eliminate the department don’t end the programs it houses; they just send them to other parts of the government. The Justice Department would take over the work of enforcing civil rights in education, for example, and the Treasury Department would oversee student loans.

Even some of the most vocal oppo-

nents of the department do not wish to discard its substance. Betsy DeVos, the education secretary during Trump’s first term, recently outlined an abolition plan that would reassign many of the department’s responsibilities to other agencies, such as the departments of Commerce and Labor. The Heritage Foundation’s Project 2025 similarly seeks “to redistribute the various congressionally approved federal education programs across the government” rather than end them altogether.

Inside Congress, some Republicans have supported anti-DOE bills that appear radical but still preserve much of the department. Rep. Thomas Massie, a libertarian Republican from Kentucky, introduced succinct legislation declaring that “The Department of Education shall terminate on December 31, 2026.” But that wouldn’t eliminate Title I, which sends federal funds to school districts, or other programs Congress authorized before the department began.

Contrary to the fears of Democrats, reallocating the programs inside the Education Department to other parts of the federal government cannot upend public schools — especially given that the department only funds about one-tenth of the schools’ budgets to begin with. But contrary to the hopes of Republicans, it can’t do much to shrink the size of the federal government, either.

In some respects, Trump himself wants the federal government to wield more influence over the schools. He has already issued an executive order requiring the department to create a “1776 Commission” to expand instruction about America’s founding and to limit the teaching of “gender ideology”

in federally funded educational institutions.

It’s not clear whether Republicans can succeed in their limited goal of redrawing the federal bureaucracy. The last time Massie offered a version of his bill, 60 Republicans joined all House Democrats in rejecting it. Two years ago, Rep. Chip Roy (R-Texas) proposed replacing Title I with vouchers; his legislation drew “no” votes from 105 Republicans.

Even if Republicans can manage to unite behind legislation that ends the department while specifying where its components will go, there’s another obstacle: the Senate filibuster, which would let Democrats stop them. Congressional rules might not allow Republicans to bypass Democrats with a simple majority.

It’s enough to make you wonder whether abolishing the Education Department is a worthwhile near-term goal for conservatives. They’re right to doubt that the department has lived up to expectations of improving American students’ performance. But the history of their quest to end the department suggests that the fight will erode their political standing, and that victory might not amount to much more than the federal government no longer having a building or a website labeled “the Department of Education.”

A more productive strategy would look to achieve reforms to student loans, better enforcement of civil rights on college campuses, and an expansion of school choice — some of which Trump is already undertaking. Continuing these efforts would not be quite as exciting as demolishing a federal building. But it might leave Republicans with more to show for their work.

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PHOTOS BY MORIAH RATNER FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Resisting the ‘fork in the road’

Facing a deferred resignation offer and potential layoffs, federal workers hold a demonstration near the Capitol

BY OLIVIA GEORGE

With a buyout offer still on a court-ordered hold and the possibility of more cuts imposed by the Trump administration looming, hundreds of federal workers and their supporters flocked to Upper Senate Park early Tuesday afternoon, rallying in the shadow of the U.S. Capitol in a bid to defend their work.

“The attack on you, the attack on the civil service, is unacceptable, unconscionable, un-American,” House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries (D-New York) said as claps and cheers rippled through the crowd. “We will stand with you until you get the dignity and respect that you deserve.”

The rally drew Democratic lawmakers, union leaders and federal employees from across the Washington region and beyond, with some flying in and bundled up amid the frigid February temperatures.



Federal workers at Upper Senate Park on Tuesday urged Congress to protect their jobs from political interference. Members of Congress such as Rep. Steny H. Hoyer (D-Maryland), and Rep. April McClain Delaney (D-Maryland), above, were at the event.

“We are not going to go down without a fight,” said Transportation Security Administration officer Johnny Jones, who traveled from Fort Worth.

Jones, 46, left his corporate job for a career in public service in the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks, he said. “I took about a 60 percent pay cut to come work for the government.”

Now, he said, it felt like that work was under siege, with federal employees facing an onslaught of agency closures, job cuts and pressure to resign as part of a sweeping effort by President Donald Trump and billionaire Elon Musk to drastically slash and reshape the federal workforce.

Tuesday’s rally came a day after a federal judge left in place a pause on the Trump administration’s program offering employees pay through the end of September if they resign now.

Three unions representing more than
SEE RALLY ON B3

New law will ban plastic bags

49% OF VOTERS
OPPOSE THE PLAN

Montgomery County also
doubles paper bag tax

BY DANA MUNRO,
EMILY GUSKIN
AND SCOTT CLEMENT

The Montgomery County Council on Tuesday adopted a ban on plastic shopping bags at most stores and doubled the tax on paper bags to 10 cents — steps that, according to a Washington Post-University of Maryland poll, many Montgomery County voters oppose.

The changes in the county’s bag policy, which take effect next January, are meant to eliminate plastic pollution and encourage residents to bring their own reusable bags when shopping, said Montgomery County Council President Kate Stewart (D-District 4), who sponsored the bill.

“Plastic has become so ubiquitous in our communities,” Stewart said after the council passed the bill unanimously. “You really need to ban the plastic bags and charge a fee, even a nominal fee, to really change behavior.”

Once enacted, businesses will no longer be allowed to offer plastic bags to customers at checkout, though some purchases — including fresh meat, dry-cleaning or small aquatic pets — will be exempted.

Shoppers will be charged 10 cents for each paper bag they’re given, with prescription drugs and restaurant leftovers among the exempted items. Recipients of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the Women, Infants, and Children
SEE BAGS ON B2

Va. trans students barred from girls’ sports

The state’s high schools
will comply with
Trump’s executive order

BY KARINA ELWOOD

The organization regulating high school sports in Virginia said Monday that, in a reversal, it will limit participation on girls’ teams to students assigned female at birth to comply with President Donald Trump’s executive order on transgender athletes.

The decision from the Virginia High School League, which oversees sports at more than 300 schools across the state, is a departure from a policy introduced in 2014 that allowed transgender student-athletes to petition to play with extensive documentation. The league said it received requests from nine trans students over a four-year period to play on girls’ teams.

The Virginia High School League is a nonprofit organization that does not receive federal funding, but executive director Billy Haun said in an interview that the organization opted to comply with the Trump order to avoid putting its member schools at risk.

“It’s sort of a tricky spot to be in,” Haun said. “But as the organization that governs Virginia High School League sports for 317 public schools, you can’t just say, ‘Well, this doesn’t apply to us.’”

Trump’s executive order, issued last week, directed the Education Department to inform schools that allowing transgender athletes to compete on girls’ and
SEE SPORTS ON B3

Record gift to AU comes from longtime professor

BY DAN ROSENZWEIG-ZIFF

A longtime American University professor has made what the institution calls its largest-ever gift from an individual. Much of the money will go toward its School of Education.

The university did not disclose the sum of the gift but said it surpassed the previous record of more than \$15 million.

The donation is from finance professor H. Kent Baker, who has taught at AU since the 1970s and earned four degrees there, including three degrees from its education school. The gift will help fund student scholarships, community partnerships in D.C. public schools and an endowed leadership chair for the school, as well as provide unrestricted funds.

“This profound gift will help to underscore American University’s commitment to the field of education by training the next

generation of educators,” AU President Jonathan Alger said in a statement.

The donation will also rename the School of Education to the Linda A. and H. Kent Baker School of Education, in honor of the professor and his late wife, who also attended and worked at American. The couple first met at the university in the 1970s before later reconnecting. They were married in 1981 at American’s Spiritual Life Center.

Linda Baker spent nearly two decades at American and died in March two weeks shy of turning 70. Baker, 80, said his plan was to give everything in his will to his wife.

After she died, he decided to rewrite his estate plan to donate to the institution where he has taught for 50 years. Talks between Baker and administrators began in earnest in August.

“It was the best way I thought I
SEE DONATION ON B2



MICHAEL S. WILLIAMSON/THE WASHINGTON POST

Children are dropped off after school Tuesday afternoon in Montgomery County.

Snow prompts early dismissals at schools and offices in D.C. region

BY RACHEL WEINER

The D.C. region faced its second significant snowstorm of the year on Tuesday, with schools and offices closing early and plows out preparing roads and sidewalks for a forecast of 3 to 6 inches of snow.

The National Weather Service warned at 3:41 p.m. that conditions were deteriorating rapidly and that snow would cover roads

during the evening commute. The snow was expected to taper off early Wednesday and be followed by a cold rain.

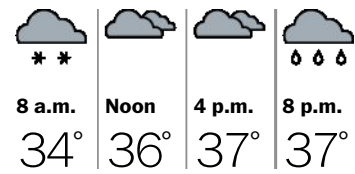
The storm traveled from southwest to northeast, hitting southern and central Virginia first. Gov. Glenn Youngkin (R) declared a state of emergency Monday “so we can move resources around the state,” he said.

Tanveer Chowdhury, the main-

tenance engineer for the Richmond district, warned Tuesday morning that “roads will become snow-covered and dangerous by the afternoon.” As snow turned to an icy rain at midday in Richmond, the state legislature postponed floor sessions until
SEE SNOW ON B4

Makeup days: In some districts, the snow scrambles calendars. **B4**

TODAY’S WEATHER



High today at approx. 2 p.m.: **38°**
Precip: **55%** Wind: **NE 6-12 mph**
For weather news, go to **B6**

MARYLAND

A former church teacher pleaded guilty to sexually abusing four girls. **B3**

OBITUARIES

Harry Stewart Jr., 100, was a decorated veteran of the Tuskegee Airmen. **B4**



The remains of old plastic bags and trash are caught in prickly vines in Laytonsville, Maryland.

MICHAEL S. WILLIAMSON/THE WASHINGTON POST

Law will overhaul bag policy

BAGS FROM B1

program (WIC) benefits are also exempt from the paper bag fee, according to the bill.

Public opinion over the plastic bag ban is closely divided. The Post-UMD poll finds that 49 percent of Montgomery County registered voters oppose the idea, while 47 percent support it.

But 69 percent of Montgomery County voters are against increasing the paper bag fee from 5 cents to 10 cents, the poll found, though 30 percent favored that step.

“We don’t want to be nickled and dimed,” Robin Ficker, a former Republican member of the House of Delegates who lives in Montgomery, said about the issue during a January hearing.

The new law will overhaul a policy that went into effect in 2012, which allowed the county to collect a portion of the 5-cent fees imposed on plastic and paper bags to put toward water quality improvement efforts. The Post-

UMD poll finds that 71 percent of Montgomery County voters support the existing policy.

However, a 2023 report from the county’s Office of the Inspector General found that the county was only collecting a fraction of the revenue from county businesses due to a lack of oversight and proper implementation of the 2012 law.

Between fiscal 2018 and 2022, the county likely failed to ensure that at least 2,100 businesses were complying with the law and lost out on as much as \$8.2 million in carryout-bag tax revenue in each of those years, according to the report.

Over the past several years, the program has essentially punished those who are cooperative with the county by making them pay the tax, while “not even touching” noncooperative businesses, said County council member Marilyn Balcombe (D-District 2) at a council work session about the legislation last week.

Balcombe said she hopes the county will pursue noncompliant businesses more aggressively after implementing the new law.

“I just want to make sure that, when we’re passing a significant bill, that the program in place will be a fair program to all retailers,” Balcombe said at the work session.

Environmental advocates supported the law.

At the January public hearing, several of those who testified argued that fewer plastic bags means fewer microplastics in waterways that can be consumed by humans. A study published last week by Nature Medicine found the concentration of plastics embedded in human brains increased by about 50 percent from 2016 to 2024.

“Plastic is multiplying in our environment and it’s harmful to

marine life, to our waterways, to human beings,” Mark Posner, a spokesperson for the Montgomery County Sierra Club, said Tuesday. “Now, over half the population of Maryland will be covered by these local laws.”

Retail groups argued that the law places an undue burden on businesses.

“Customers need only bring their own bag or skip the bag to avoid that 10 cent charge, but the only way that businesses can skip that is by removing the single-use bag option for everyone,” said Sarah Price, a spokesperson for the Maryland Retailers Alliance, at a public hearing last month.

Business groups also expressed concern about the logistical challenges behind a portion of the law that exempts county residents enrolled in food assistance programs from paying the tax.

But Ludeen McCartney-Green, a legislative attorney for the county council, said that technology exists to upgrade cash registers to make that provision possible to implement.

Brian Levine, a spokesperson for the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce, said the change is mostly aligned with bag policies in other municipalities in Maryland.

“We worry about Montgomery County being in a position that it’s not competitive with surrounding jurisdictions,” Levine said in an interview. “That’s not what this bill does.”

The poll was conducted by telephone Jan. 24-28 by The Post and the University of Maryland’s Center for Democracy and Civic Engagement among 1,002 registered Maryland voters randomly sampled from a statewide voter database. Results among the 202 Montgomery County voters have an error margin of plus or minus 7.5 points.

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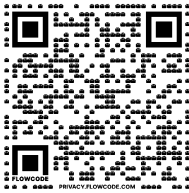


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KIM C. PARRISH

H. Kent Baker, seen with his wife, Linda A. Baker, in 1995, made a record donation to American University surpassing \$15 million.

Record gift to AU to fund scholarships and more

DONATION FROM B1

could honor her and affect the university positively for decades to come,” Baker said in an interview.

Baker said the new scholarships will primarily support graduate students because he spent so much time as one himself.

The gift comes as the university is deliberating restructuring the education school and possibly merging it with the College of Arts and Sciences. The potential plan sparked panic among some students, but school leaders said in November that it would not result in program cuts. American is also facing a \$60 million budget shortfall as it struggles with falling enrollment.

Acting provost Vicky Wilkins said the gift does not significantly change the restructuring planning or address the university’s deficit dollar-for-dollar but will be “transformative” for the entire institution.

“This is a story of community and love for a place,” Wilkins said, adding that the donation did not come as a result of the possible restructuring.

At a time when higher education is facing increased scrutiny from the federal government un-

der the Trump administration, Wilkins said the donation “shows our commitment to educators and that developing educators is a top priority for the university.”

AU is working with a task force of students, faculty and administrators on the education school reorganization and aims to find a new leader for the program in 2026, Wilkins said. The reorganization could include the merging of some services, such as communications or accounting, with a larger college within American, she said.

Gabriella Rupp, a junior who is on the task force, said she and other education school students are optimistic the donation will ensure the longevity and independence of the college.

“This shows there’s an institutional commitment to us and to our school,” she said.

Baker plans to meet with the interim dean of the education school soon. He is also donating some money to the business school to support the faculty there, the specifics of which are still being worked out. He said he has no plans to retire.

“I wanted this to go somewhere I know will do good,” he said. “It’s a place I love, and where I hope to be for a long time to come.”



Retropolis

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The Washington Post

5/12/25-22

‘We are not going to go down without a fight’

RALLY FROM B1

800,000 federal workers — the American Federation of Government Employees, the National Association of Government Employees, and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees — along with the nonprofit group Democracy Forward sued over the program, arguing that it is an “arbitrary, unlawful, short-fused ultimatum.”

Some 65,000 workers have reportedly already accepted the deal, which was offered in an email with the subject line “Fork in the Road.”

“I do not trust it,” Social Security Administration employee Monique Buchanan said at Tuesday’s rally. “My concern is that anyone who accepts that offer will be disappointed.”

A civil servant for 29 years, Buchanan said a cousin encouraged her into the career.

“She told me how enriching it was to be able to assist people,” said Buchanan, standing at the edge of a growing crowd, many waving small American flags and hoisting signs declaring “justice takes action” high into the air.

“When federal employees are under attack, that is a warning sign for the country,” Doreen P. Greenwald, national president of the National Treasury Employees Union, said from the stage. “You work hard for the American people. Do not let them lie about you.”

In the crowd stood Nadine Seiler, 59, who immigrated to the United States from Trinidad and Tobago more than three decades ago — drawn for economic opportunities and, she said, because she believed in the promise of “American freedom and democracy.”

She is not a federal worker but said she is alarmed by Trump and Musk.

“I was sold on America’s checks and balances,” Seiler said. “I have been bamboozled.”

So on Tuesday she drove to Capitol Hill from her Waldorf, Maryland, home to show solidarity with federal workers. With her she brought a homemade sign, fashioned from an old bedsheet and spray-painted with a slogan: “Eat Elon Musk with his own Fork!”



PHOTOS BY MORIAH RATNER FOR THE WASHINGTON POST



Hundreds of federal workers and their supporters, including union leaders and Democratic lawmakers, rallied in Washington on Tuesday.

Va. high school sports authority reverses policy on trans athletes

SPORTS FROM B1

women’s sports teams will put them in violation of the Title IX law banning sex discrimination in schools and could risk access to federal funding. The next day, the NCAA changed its policy to limit competition in college women’s sports to athletes who were assigned female at birth.

Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin (R) had urged the league to follow the Trump order, saying Friday that “schools are at risk of losing millions of dollars in federal school funding if the VHSL doesn’t comply.”

On Monday, Youngkin praised the league’s change, writing in

part on X: “Common sense wins!”

In 2023, the governor finalized his own “model policies” on transgender students — including a provision that stated participation in athletic programs “shall be determined by sex rather than gender or gender identity.”

At the time, the Virginia High School League declined to change its policy to adhere with the model policies, which functioned as guidance with little to no enforcement mechanism.

Haun said some school districts in the league were not planning to adopt the governor’s policies, and “there was a lot of legal interpretation there that made it not clear.”

“I think with [Trump’s order], it’s pretty clear,” he said. “When you’re talking about losing federal funding for federal programs, or being in violation of having a Title IX violation, that’s pretty clear.”

Others don’t see the move as straightforward.

“Discrimination against trans students is discrimination on the basis of sex, which is exactly what Title IX was designed to protect against,” said Wyatt Rolla, senior transgender rights attorney for the ACLU of Virginia. “And now we have the have this administration attempting to use it as a cudgel.”

The previous policy for the Virginia High School League consid-

ered appeals from students who wanted to play on a different team from the gender that was on their birth certificate or official school records. An application had to include extensive documentation, including verification from a medical provider and pass multiple levels of review before being approved. From October 2020 to December 2024, Haun said 31 students filed appeals and 28 were approved.

Haun said the change announced Monday affects only participation in girls’ sports, and he expects the league’s previous policy to remain for transgender students who wish to play on boys’ teams.

Shannon McKay, executive director and co-founder of He She Ze and We, a Richmond-based nonprofit advocating on behalf of transgender and nonbinary people, said families are feeling exhausted by the onslaught of recent news and regulations surrounding transgender youths. Monday’s decision was another hit, she said.

“It’s such a small number who want to play,” McKay said. “So to deny this for an entire community of people, the messaging is clear that the outside world wants them to think they don’t belong.”

Gregory S. Schneider contributed to this report.

MARYLAND

Church teacher pleads guilty to sexually abusing young girls

BY DAN MORSE

A former teacher at a small church in Montgomery County pleaded guilty Monday in four sexual assault cases amid allegations he abused four girls ages 6 through 12, including two he fondled while their eyes were shut during prayers, authorities said in court.

Ervin J. Alfaro-Lopez, 34, faces up to 25 years in state prison at his sentencing in August. Federal immigration authorities, who have said Alfaro-Lopez unlawfully entered the United States three times and has been the subject of two removal proceedings, indicated they will seek his deportation after he serves his Maryland sentence.

Alfaro-Lopez, who recently lived in Germantown, said little in court Monday besides answering standard plea-hearing questions on whether he understood his de-



Ervin J. Alfaro-Lopez

cision and its ramifications. He pleaded guilty to one count of sex abuse of a minor and three counts of third-degree sex offense.

State sentencing guidelines, while not binding, recommend a prison term somewhere between 5.75 and 22 years, according to Monday’s proceedings. In exchange for the guilty pleas, prosecutors agreed to cap his maxi-

mum sentence at 25 years.

In the spring of 2023, according to Montgomery County police, a 17-year-old girl reported being sexually abused seven years prior by a teacher at her church, which is in the Rockville area. That led to a broader investigation, authorities say, involving a total of four victims who said Alfaro-Lopez abused them during a stretch from 2014 to 2018.

The 17-year-old spoke about several incidents involving Alfaro-Lopez when she was about 10 years old. In one case, the girl said, the two were in a room at the church with other children when he fondled her, detectives alleged in charging documents. She also recalled that during a retreat or a vigil, Alfaro-Lopez sexually assaulted her and told her to stay quiet so other children — ages 4 to 11 and sleeping — wouldn’t wake up, according to an affidavit investigators filed in court.

Another reported victim said Alfaro-Lopez abused her about seven years earlier during a “midnight mass” event, according to court documents. While children were in a dark room watching a movie, the girl told detectives, Alfaro-Lopez called her to the back of the room to sit on his lap and began fondling her, according to court records.

Another victim said when she was 7 or 8 years old and Alfaro-Lopez was her teacher, he fondled her while inside the church. She reported another such incident that occurred “while the other students were praying,” Montgomery Assistant State’s Attorney John Grochowski said in court Monday.

A fourth victim, according to the prosecutor, told detectives that when she was 11 or 12 Alfaro-Lopez fondled her “on multiple occasions while the other students were praying.”

Alfaro-Lopez remains held

at the Montgomery County jail without bond, an official said Monday evening. At Alfaro-Lopez’s sentencing, according to Grochowski, four victims and their families may speak in court.

Last year, James Covington, a spokesman for the Baltimore office of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), said Alfaro-Lopez had been arrested by the U.S. Border Patrol near Lake Charles, Louisiana, on March 23, 2015, issued a notice to appear before an immigration judge and released on a \$7,500 bond.

Three years later, he was ordered removed from the United States, leading ICE to arrest him in early 2019, Covington said. Alfaro-Lopez left the country three months later but crossed into the United States again in 2020 and was deported, ICE said. It was unclear how and when he most recently returned to the United States.

MARYLAND

Rupture in water main in Prince George’s

Thousands are advised to boil water; dozens of county schools close

BY DANA HEDGPETH AND LATESHIA BEACHUM

A large water main break Tuesday left several hundred thousand Prince George’s County residents without water and caused dozens of local schools, county libraries and other facilities to close.

WSSC Water was working to repair the break Tuesday afternoon but advised residents in the southern portion of Prince George’s to boil their water before consuming it — a warning the utility said could be in effect until Friday morning.

“It’s not your typical size of a water main break, and it’s not your typical repair,” WSSC spokesperson Lyn Riggins said.

The main break affected residents in communities north and east of Maryland Route 4, also known as Pennsylvania Avenue, WSSC said in a message on X.

By midafternoon, the organization announced that it created two water distribution stations for people affected by the boil-water advisory. Those stations are at 6336 Rosecroft Drive in Fort Washington and 11000 Thrift Road in Clinton and will be open until 9 p.m. Tuesday.

Riggins, the WSSC spokesperson, said the break involves a pipe that is 54 inches in diameter, while most breaks are much smaller.

The water main break was particularly hard to locate, she said, because it is about 20 feet from the highway in a wooded area. She said that at about 1 a.m. Tuesday, WSSC knew there was a problem when staff noticed the “distribution system was losing water.”

“Sometimes they’re easy to find” because they’re in a neighborhood, she said. But this one “took some time.” She said crews were able to locate it once the sun rose Tuesday.

The water main break also affected county-run facilities such as the Dyer Care Center Mental Health Emergency Room in Clinton and the Bridge Center in Suitland, according to the county executive’s director of communications, Allyson Wilson.

Wilson also said Adventist HealthCare Fort Washington Medical Center and MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Center initially experienced a small disaster status because of the water main break, but both facilities went back to regular operations later in the day.

Riggins said the boil-water advisory is in effect because of a “possibility of contamination” in the system, as there is no water pressure. Any water that is consumed should first be boiled for at least one minute.

WSSC said customers can visit gisportal.wsscwater.com/alerts to find out if they are in the area affected by the boil-water advisory.

Officials for the county school system said about 30 percent of its 200 schools and a few administrative buildings were closed Tuesday because of the water main break.

The district had previously said it would close schools two hours early Tuesday because of the winter storm.

A spokesperson for the Prince George’s County School District said late Tuesday afternoon that the school system had not made a determination about future school closures caused by winter weather.

At least four county libraries were closed Tuesday due to the water main break, and all county libraries closed early due to inclement weather.



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The Guide to Offers
The Washington Post

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See details at washingtonpost.com/entertainment/events/lists/388





Motorists drive in Takoma Park on Tuesday under darkening skies as road conditions deteriorate.

Officials face pressure to improve after last storm

SNOW FROM B1

Wednesday.

Federal workers across the region were encouraged to leave early Tuesday. D.C. Public Schools canceled afternoon athletic and extracurricular activities, as did Montgomery County. Some school districts were expected to close Wednesday; dozens of schools in Prince George's County were already closed Tuesday because of a water main break.

Most local national park visitor centers closed early, according to the National Park Service. The northern section of the George Washington Memorial Parkway is closed, as are roads through Fort Dupont Park.

Teams began salting roads and pretreating sidewalks Monday night in preparation for the storm. Metrorail service can run well in up to 6 inches of snow, officials said, but it was likely that bus routes would be rerouted and curtailed. Disruptions to Montgomery County's Ride On bus service were possible depending on the snow buildup into Wednesday morning.

Officials have been under pressure from residents to improve on their performance from January's storm, after which many side-

walks and bike lanes were covered in ice and bulk trash remained on streets for weeks.

"We're still feeling the impact of the previous storm," Huma Imtiaz, an advisory neighborhood commissioner in the Bloomingdale area, said Tuesday at a D.C. Council hearing on the Department of Public Works, pointing to trash not being picked up because of icy alleyways.

"Every block has Christmas trees," Imtiaz said. "Maybe they're a gift for my dog, who has really enjoyed peeing on them."

Slow cleanup of federal property is also a long-standing frustration for the city. After January's storm, some sidewalks around national parks and monuments remained covered in ice until it melted three weeks later. The National Park Service is generally responsible for federal property, while residential and commercial property owners are responsible for clearing the sidewalks in front of their homes and businesses.

D.C. Council member Charles Allen (D-Ward 6) told The Washington Post on Tuesday that the Park Service had committed to better sidewalk clearance and was deploying a new four-wheel snowplow.

Residents in D.C. and the sur-

rounding suburbs also complained of curb cuts covered in icy snow for weeks and bike lanes filled with snow from street plows. D.C. Department of Transportation Director Sharon Kershbaum said at another oversight hearing Tuesday that it "was a lesson learned from the last snow event that we need to stagger our clearing."

This time, she said, DDOT would start with trails and address bike lanes after plows come through.

In Northern Virginia, state Department of Transportation spokeswoman Ellen Kamilakis said snowplow drivers were being instructed to be mindful of not simply pushing snow onto sidewalks.

But forecasters predict that unlike the previous storm, which was followed by a hard freeze, this snowfall is likely to wash away with Wednesday evening's rain.

"The temperatures are far more in our favor this time," Kamilakis said. "This is going to be a nice, heavy, wet snow that's great to push."

Jason Samenow, Teo Ammus, Dana Munro, Lateshia Beachum and Gregory S. Schneider contributed to this report.

A day off that might need repaying

BY LAUREN LUMPKIN,
NICOLE ASBURY
AND KARINA ELWOOD

Another snowstorm coated the D.C. area, bringing with it freezing temperatures, slippery roads and — in some school districts — perhaps a longer year.

The impending storm sparked a flurry of early dismissals and closings Tuesday, and more classes were canceled for Wednesday.

It comes a little more than a month after schools across the region were closed for nearly a week as a result of a winter storm in early January, and it could alter some school calendars going forward.

Here is how future snow days could affect several school systems in the region:

The District

For **D.C. Public Schools**, any future decision to close could lead to a school year that goes into the fourth week of June. The district has already extended the year twice after its back-to-back snow days last month. The last day of school, originally scheduled for June 17, is now slated for June 20. Changes will be communicated to families once they're finalized, officials said. The district will be closed Wednesday.

The city's 68 charter school networks have their own policies but often close when the traditional public school district does. Some schools will also consider long school years. Others may offer virtual instruction or have snow days baked into the calendar. KIPP D.C., the city's largest charter network, has scattered five makeup days for canceled school through March, April and June.

Maryland

Montgomery County Public Schools, is among the districts that will be closed Wednesday. The district, Maryland's largest school system will need to use designated makeup days to meet the state's required number of instructional days, said Liliana López, a spokeswoman for the district. López said school system officials need to de-



Greenbelt Elementary and other Prince George's schools might need to schedule more instructional days at the end of the year.

cide when those makeup days would occur and then the district will inform families.

Prince George's County Public Schools has used four makeup days so far, according to a mid-January blog post from the school system. Schools will now be open Friday, a previously planned professional development day, and from June 16-18, all of which were originally slotted as potential makeup days. The district is closed Wednesday, and officials had previously said that another inclement weather closure would mean school would be made up March 17. After the fifth snow day, the system said it may schedule additional instructional days at the end of the year.

Northern Virginia

Many districts in Northern Virginia have more snow days already built into the academic calendar.

In **Fairfax County**, the district has not yet exceeded its allotted 10 snow days. The school district said in a statement that it has a sufficient amount of inclement weather days to accommodate further weather disruptions.

Nearby **Arlington County** was in a similar position, having used only three of its 13 built-in snow

days as of Monday.

In **Loudoun County**, the school day is already longer than what is required by the state's education department, so it will not have to add any days to make up for time lost to inclement weather. "This excess provides more than enough to cover snow days and we never get close to having to extend the school year," spokesman Dan Adams said in a statement.

Fairfax, Arlington and Loudoun will all be closed Wednesday.

Alexandria City Public Schools decides whether to use online learning or a "traditional" snow day on a case-by-case basis. So far this year, the district has closed for two traditional snow days, and students participated in "asynchronous virtual learning" on Jan. 8. On Wednesday, the district will hold to synchronous, or live, virtual learning. It's unclear whether the school district will have to add makeup days.

"At this point in the school year, we are revisiting our calendar and exploring options that may impact the calendar," the district said Monday in a statement. "We have not made any final decisions and will communicate with staff and families after our internal review and decisions are made considering all the factors."

OBITUARIES

HARRY STEWART JR., 100

Decorated Tuskegee Airman

BY ADAM BERNSTEIN

Harry Stewart Jr., who flew 43 missions over Europe as a fighter pilot and was among the last surviving combat veterans of the Tuskegee Airmen, an all-Black squadron in the segregated U.S. military during World War II, died Feb. 2 at his home in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. He was 100.

Philip Handleman, an aviation writer and the co-author of Mr. Stewart's 2019 memoir, "Soaring to Glory: A Tuskegee Airman's Firsthand Account of World War II," confirmed the death but did not know the specific cause.

Brian R. Smith, president of the Tuskegee Airmen National Historical Museum in Detroit, said Mr. Stewart was the last of two surviving Tuskegee combat pilots, leaving just George Hardy, who is 99. There are about 20 surviving Tuskegee Airmen, Smith said.

Mr. Stewart described himself as awed since his childhood in Queens, by the airplanes that would rumble over his home, which was on the flight path to what is now LaGuardia Airport. He joined the Army Air Forces at 18 and earned his wings the next year at Tuskegee Army Air Field in Alabama, long before he learned how to drive a car.

As part of the all-Black 301st Fighter Squadron, Mr. Stewart was assigned to Ramitelli Air Base in Italy. He and fellow squadron pilots flew in single-seat P-51 Mustang fighters as escorts to White-crewed long-distance bombers making runs in Italy, Austria and Germany. Each trip, he said, lasted anywhere from five to seven hours while flying in outside temperatures 50 to 60 degrees below zero.

"You're trapped in the cockpit, and you cannot really move," he told the Boston Herald, explaining how he would try any way he could to get the blood flowing. "Sometimes coming back from a mission ... I would invert the plane, turn it over on its back then so actually I was hanging by my safety strap. ... It was like somebody rubbing your back. I couldn't stay in that position for too long, it was only for a second and then turn the plane back over upright again."

On an Easter Sunday — April 1, 1945 — he and his unit had completed escort duties for a group of B24s for a bombing raid over Linz, Austria, when Mr. Stewart and other P-51 pilots decided to hunt for Luftwaffe aircraft on their own. They encountered long-nosed Focke-Wulf Fw 190s near the Austrian city of Wels and engaged in a brutal dogfight.

"Three of us got shot down," he recalled to the Herald. "One was able to make it back to friendly territory before he crash-landed, one was killed outright when he was shot down and the third one, his plane was damaged so badly that he had to bail out."

He said he later learned that the man, Walter Manning, was captured and lynched days later by a mob after German SS troops encouraged local paramilitaries to kidnap him from jail and hang him from a lamppost.

Mr. Stewart said he almost met the same fate, having only narrowly avoided being strafed while in a German pilot's crosshairs. While being chased at close range, Mr. Stewart made a steep dive before pulling up on the controls at the last possible moment.

He said he saw the Luftwaffe pilot, perhaps less experienced at the controls, go into a high-speed stall and crash in a fiery explosion. (Handleman said other accounts he heard have the German pilot clipping a tree during the low-level chase with Mr. Stewart.)

For his actions in combat that day, which included participating in the downing of three German aircraft, Mr. Stewart received the Distinguished Flying Cross.

After the war, Mr. Stewart transitioned to the newly created Air Force in 1947 — a year before President Harry S. Truman desegregated the military. In 1949, Mr. Stewart and two other Tuskegee Airmen veterans demonstrated their skills in a service-wide aerial gunnery competition held near Las Vegas at what would soon become Nellis Air Force Base. Flying Republic F-47N Thunderbolts, they won first place in the propeller division.

Despite a desire to make a career in the service, Mr. Stewart said postwar budget constraints affecting the numbers of needed pilot led him to rethink his plans. He returned to civilian life in 1950 after being honorably dis-



U.S. AIR FORCE



MONICA MORGAN/GETTY IMAGES

Harry Stewart Jr., seen at top in the late 1940s, was among the last surviving combat veterans of the Tuskegee Airmen.

charged at the rank of captain and struggled to find a job in commercial aviation at a time of rampant discriminatory practices by the major airlines.

As he recounted to the Detroit News, he showed up at the Trans World Airlines office dressed "impeccably and immaculately" in response to an advertisement seeking pilots. The receptionist, he said, "looked at me and then looked away before saying, 'We're not taking any applicants.'"

"I walked away," he added. "I didn't want to let her see she had gotten to me and made me have this awful feeling."

A man from human resources, who overheard the exchange, then approached to explain with what Mr. Stewart said was an attempt at sympathy: "Picture yourself as a passenger on the aircraft. How would you feel if you saw this black man in a pilot's uniform walking down the aisle to the cockpit? It would destroy the confidence of the passengers."

A similar encounter at Pan American left him equally dejected. Determined not to work as a street cleaner, dishwasher or garbage collector — the jobs he said were most available to Black men at the time — he became a draftsman for New York City's municipal engineering department.

He also completed coursework for his high school diploma and graduated in 1963 with a mechanical engineering degree from New York University after years of night school. He retired as a Detroit-based vice president of American Natural Resources, a company that runs interstate natural gas pipeline systems.

Harry Thaddeus Stewart Jr., the oldest of four children of a postal worker and a homemaker, was born in Newport News, Virginia, on July 4, 1924. He was 2 when the family resettled in Queens, where he grew fascinated with flight.

"My parents told me, when I was a year or two old, they put me in a crib out on the lawn," he told Downtown Newsmagazine. "Planes would fly over, and I would get very excited. As a teenager, I used to walk over to North Beach Airport [now LaGuardia] and watch the planes take off and land."

After the United States entered World War II in 1941, Mr. Stewart said he read a magazine article about the first all-Black flying combat unit, the 99th Pursuit Squadron. He had quit school at 16 for a job that brought a steady paycheck but said he was determined to sign up as a military

pilot after turning 18.

"These black flyers had glamour, polish, prestige," he recalled to the Wall Street Journal. "The Army Air Forces accepted me even though I had no high-school diploma. The country needed pilots, I was gung-ho, and I had passed the battery of written tests."

Upon joining the Army Air Forces, he was sent by train to Biloxi, Mississippi, for basic training. As soon as the train crossed the Mason-Dixon Line, the train conductor pointed at him and ordered him to the "colored car." "It was disconcerting," Mr. Stewart told the Journal, "but I saw it as an unavoidable hurdle to earning my wings. I swallowed hard and kept going."

It was his first exposure to what he called years of being treated as a "second-class citizen" even while in the military. At Tuskegee Army Air Field, located near the Tuskegee Institute, the commanding officers were White, and all other personnel, including mechanics and pilots, were Black. Mr. Stewart completed his Tuskegee training June 27, 1944, and soon went overseas.

His wife of 68 years, Delphine Friend, died in 2015. Survivors include a daughter, Lori Stewart.

Throughout his life, Mr. Stewart maintained a strong connection to his service days. He retired from the Air Force Reserve as a lieutenant colonel and was present at a ceremony at the U.S. Capitol in 2008 when President George W. Bush bestowed on a dwindling number of surviving peers the Congressional Gold Medal for their groundbreaking military service.

Major commercial carriers slowly began hiring Black pilots amid the civil rights movement in the mid-1960s. The carriers American and Delta presented Mr. Stewart with honorary captain's wings over the past decade.

At 81, Mr. Stewart was certified by the youth flight academy of the Tuskegee Airmen museum in Detroit. In that role, which he conducted for several years, he helped introduce young people to flying. (Unlike with a traditional airplane, the motorized glider's engine can be turned off once it reaches altitude, and then flown and landed as a regular sailplane.)

"It is a matter of conscience," he told the Detroit Free Press. "I have this license to fly, I've been provided with the health and the vigor and the stamina and everything else to do this type of thing, so my conscience dictates that I try to pass it on to someone else."



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DEATH NOTICE

DOWNING



MARY ELLEN ROSE FREDMAN DOWNING

Mary Ellen Rose Fredman Downing of Reston, Virginia died on January 7, 2025 after a short illness. She was 87 years old. Mary was born on April 8, 1937 in Martinsburg, WV, the daughter of Elmer Clifton Fredman and Mary Kyne Fredman. As a toddler, Mary moved to Washington DC's Capitol Hill, and later to Dunn Loring in Northern Virginia; she had two younger sisters, Elizabeth Ann Fredman (George) and Theresa Joy Fredman (Baker). Mary graduated from Falls Church High School in 1955 and from Mary Washington College with a degree in psychology in 1959. After graduating, Mary realized her dream of moving to California, living in Santa Monica and on the beach in Malibu while working as a public school teacher. Two of her room-

DEATH NOTICE

DUNMORE



GLORIA PARKER DUNMORE

Gloria Parker Dunmore transitioned on Sunday, February 2, 2025 peacefully at home. She is survived by her loving children, Gwendolyn, Jacquelyn (Wayman), and Lawrence II (Karen), as well as eight grandchildren, six great grandchildren, four sisters, and two brothers. She also leaves to mourn brothers-in-law, nieces, nephews and cousins. Funeral services will be held on Saturday, February 15, 2025, Visitation 10 a.m., Service 11 a.m. at Dunbarton Chapel, Howard University West Campus, 2900 Van Ness Street NW, Washington, DC 20008, followed by interment at Fort Lincoln Cemetery in lieu of flowers, donations can be made in memory of Gloria Parker Dunmore to the Alzheimer's Association www.mcguire-services.com

IN MEMORIAM

WELTHER



BLAIR L. WELTHER 12/31/73 - 2/12/02

Forever Loved and Remembered.

Mom, Dad, Freddie, Joanne, Michael, Susan, Janet, Nieces and Nephews and Your Friends.

DEATH NOTICE

GARRETT-EVANS



MELBA EASTERLING GARRETT-EVANS (Age 83)

On Friday, January 24, 2025, Melba Easterling Garrett Evans of Waldorf, Maryland entered eternal life. A master musician and music teacher, she impacted the church community with her gift. She leaves to cherish her memory, Darrmita G. Wilson, daughter, Grandchildren, Rebekah, Renata, and Paul M. Wilson II. Family will receive guests, and friends for a memorial service on Thursday, February 13, 2025. Family hour at 10 a.m. and memorial service at 11 a.m. at From The Heart Church Ministries, 4949 Allentown Road, Camp Springs, MD 20746. Interment: National Harmony Memorial Park, Hyattsville, MD.

GOLDMAN



DAVID M. GOLDMAN, M.D.

Dr. David M. Goldman of Potomac, Maryland passed away on February 8, 2025 surrounded by his loving family, at the wonderful age of 85. Devoted husband of Lynn, he and his feisty Lynn were college sweethearts and were happily married for 64 years. He was a devoted father showing unconditional love on Lisa Forgang (Chuck) and Jennifer Bolton (John);

doting grandfather who was enthralled and captivated by Justin and Gavin; big brother to Robert (Lorene); loving brother-in-law to Aviva (Danny); and supportive uncle to Michele, Jonathan (Angie) and Todd (Michelle). David was a longtime and incredibly caring Nephrologist/Internist practicing and teaching medicine in suburban Maryland for over 40 years, and was the Chief of Medicine and then VP of Medical Affairs at Prince George's Hospital Center. He was respected in his profession as a teacher, mentor and colleague. David will be remembered as the wise voice of reason, smartest person in the room, voracious reader of detective novels, first one on the slopes, and a golfer with a love/hate relationship with the links who found joy in the camaraderie of the 19th hole. His love and care for his patients was exceeded only by the love, guidance and generosity he gave his family and close friends. He will be missed dearly, but will remain forever in our hearts. His legacy lives through the lives he touched and the patients he helped heal. A private funeral will be held in New York for close family. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the charity of the donor's choice in his honor. Services entrusted to Sagel Bloomfield Dankszky Goldberg Funeral Care. www.sagelbloomfield.com

JOHNSON



R. LARRY JOHNSON A Brilliant Mind, A Fierce Competitor, A Devoted Family Man

R. Larry Johnson died peacefully on February 4, 2025 surrounded by his family.

Born on September 26, 1946, in Prince George's County, Maryland, to the late Loetta "Midge" Schoenholz and Theodore "Dick" Johnson, Larry came from humble beginnings. But from an early age, it was clear—he was destined for success.

Larry was raised Catholic and served as an altar boy throughout his childhood. A natural athlete, he excelled in sports, playing quarterback and point guard on his high school teams. His competitive spirit was undeniable, and that drive carried him through every stage of his life. In 1967, he married Nita McKinney. The following year, he graduated from the University of Maryland and they quickly started a family. Tracy was born that year followed by Kelly, 17 months later.

His professional career took off just as fast. He began his career at a Big Eight accounting firm and quickly rose through the ranks, becoming the youngest partner in charge of audits in Ernst & Whinney's history. But Larry was never one to settle—in 1986 he left the firm to strike out on his own, forming Johnson Lambert & Co., and later the forensic accounting firm, Veris Consulting, where he worked on high profile cases like Enron and Madoff. In the field of forensic accounting, Larry's intellect, quick wit, tenacity and unmatched attention to detail made him a force to be reckoned with in courtrooms throughout the country.

Still, nothing ever captured his heart quite like his love of horse racing, which he inherited from his grandfather, Earl Johnson, a prize fighter and horse trainer. The two spent countless hours at the track, and from those early days, Larry developed an uncanny instinct for the sport that would later become one of his greatest passions.

His success in the industry was nothing short of miraculous. He got his start in the business with Ran's Chick, a horse Larry bought for \$2,500 in 1976. Over a racing career that spanned nearly 30 years, he amassed an impressive racing record, including multiple graded stakes wins. A tireless advocate for the breeding and racing industry, he sat on the boards of horsemen's groups, such as the Maryland Horse Breeders' Association and the Virginia Thoroughbred Association. In 2022, he was named Top Owner by the Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association. In 2021, he bred Mindframe, a 4-year-old colt that won or placed in all four starts in 2024, including running second in the Belmont Stakes.

Above all of his professional accomplishments, Larry's proudest achievement was always his family. A lifelong sports fan, he made sure to share that passion with his daughters. From the time they were little, they were right by his side—watching and going to Redskins games, waking up for early morning workouts at the tracks in Bowie and Timonium, Saturday nights at Charles Town, and of course, as fixtures at the racetrack in his later years. His earliest horses were named after his daughters, a reflection of just how deeply he wove them into his world.

As a grandfather, Larry took equal pride in sharing his love of sports, politics and debate with his grandchildren.

Larry is survived by his two daughters, Tracy Mulroy and Kelly (Arturo) Caraballo, and his grandchildren, Isabella, Alex and Olivia Caraballo and Reece and Laura Mulroy, his "best friend ever," Lynn Contino, and his grandson-in-law, Kyle Mulroy. He is also survived by his brother, Michael (Robyn) Johnson and his sister, Barbara Johnson (Ruth Gresser). He is predeceased by his sister, Beverly Johnson.

Larry was brilliant, determined and fiercely loyal to the people and passions he loved. His impact—on his industry, family, and everyone lucky enough to know him—will never be forgotten.

Visitation will be on Friday, February 14 from 5 to 8 p.m. at Pumphrey Funeral Home, 7557 Wisconsin Avenue, Bethesda, MD 20814.

A memorial service and reception will be held on Saturday, February 15 at 1:30 p.m. at River Road Universalist Unitarian Congregation, 6301 River Road, Bethesda, MD 20817 (entrance on Whittier Blvd.).

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that charitable donations in Larry's memory be made to the Osteogenesis Imperfecta Foundation (www.oif.org) and The Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation (www.tbtrf.org). www.pumphreyfuneralhome.com

LEWIS



DIANNE MATHILDA LEWIS

Dianne Mathilda Lewis, age 84, passed away peacefully on January 31, 2025. Her nephew, David Rambow, and his wife, Tonja Rambow where by her bedside. Dianne was born on December 3, 1940, in Detroit Lakes, Minnesota; she was the daughter of the late Arthur M. Olson and Marion B. Olson (Sansburn). The family moved to Coeur d'Alene, Idaho in 1947 then later moved to Snoqualmie, Washington in 1949. Dianne attended Snoqualmie grade school and Mt. St. High School, Snoqualmie, Washington. In 1959 she graduated valedictorian. In the fall of 1959, she began her studies at Washington State University. While at Washington State University, she was a member of the Phi Beta Kappa sorority. In 1963, Dianne graduated Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology. It was

during her high school years she met the love of her life, Kirk Lewis. They both attended Washington State University. On August 22, 1963, Kirk and Dianne were married at the University Christian Church in Seattle, Washington, a marriage that would last 60 years. Dianne had two passions. She loved traveling with her husband. Kirk served 27 years with the United States Army and his serve took them both to Europe and numerous Army posts within the U.S. Dianne's travels even took her to South Vietnam where her husband served as a combat pilot. Her second love was horses. As a child, she would ride a mare bareback around the neighborhood. In 1999, she got her own horse, a Tennessee Walker who she named Danny. She had many wonderful years of riding Danny and teaching family members the joy of horseback riding. Dianne is survived by her sisters-in-law, Kristi Mainwaring and Monica Melroth. She was preceded in death by her husband, L. Kirk Lewis, her parents, Arthur M. Olson and Marion B. Olson (Sansburn), and her sister Beverly Lou Rambow and brother, Keith William Turnbull. She is survived by numerous nieces and nephews. Dianne will be laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia, with her husband, Colonel L. Kirk Lewis at a date to be determined. Following the graveside service, a reception will follow. The Hiers-Baxley Funeral Home in The Villages, Florida, are assisting with the arrangements. The family asks that in lieu of flowers, please make a charitable contribution to your favorite charity in the name of Dianne M. Lewis. Lastly, the family wishes to extend their sincere thanks to the staff at Chatham Glen Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center for the loving care they provided Dianne.

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The Washington Post

DEATH NOTICE

DUNMORE



GLORIA PARKER DUNMORE

Gloria Parker Dunmore transitioned on Sunday, February 2, 2025 peacefully at home. She is survived by her loving children, Gwendolyn, Jacquelyn (Wayman), and Lawrence II (Karen), as well as eight grandchildren, six great grandchildren, four sisters, and two brothers. She also leaves to mourn brothers-in-law, nieces, nephews and cousins. Funeral services will be held on Saturday, February 15, 2025, Visitation 10 a.m., Service 11 a.m. at Dunbarton Chapel, Howard University West Campus, 2900 Van Ness Street NW, Washington, DC 20008, followed by interment at Fort Lincoln Cemetery in lieu of flowers, donations can be made in memory of Gloria Parker Dunmore to the Alzheimer's Association www.mcguire-services.com

GOLDMAN

AILEEN S. GOLDMAN November 17, 1937 February 9, 2025

On Sunday, February 9, 2025, Aileen S. Goldman of Silver Spring, Maryland passed away at home after a brief illness.

Born in Buffalo New York and raised in Cleveland Ohio, Aileen and her husband Harvey established roots in Silver Spring and then Olney, Maryland where they raised their two children. Enormously artistic, Aileen, originally a teacher, pursued vast and varied creative endeavors including weaving, interior design, painting, faux finishing and lots and lots of gardening, as well as some less successful attempts at plexiglass mobile making and ceramics. Aileen was also a passionate volunteer, working for many years with Women's American ORT and Brookside Gardens.

Aileen was adored by her husband Harvey; children Harlyn and Corri; grandchildren Robin, Melanie and Shawn; brother Ron, and sister Beverly, as well as friends both old and new.

Graveside funeral services will be held on Thursday, February 13, 2025 at 2 p.m. at Judean Memorial Gardens, Olney, Maryland.

Arrangements by Hines-Rinaldi Funeral Home Inc. under Jewish Funeral Practices Committee of Greater Washington Contract.

HARRIS

JAMES A. HARRIS (Age 92)

It is with regret that we notify the members of Steamfitters Local 602 of the death of retired brother James A. Harris. Private services were held by the family. Notice #2003. Christopher M. Madello F.S.T.

RICARD



MIN KARRAS RICARD

Min Karras Ricard died on February 5, 2025 of Potomac, MD. Born in Washington, DC on January 11, 1932 to Nick Karras and Anna Flakas Karras. Raised in Washington, DC. Graduated from Central High School, Bowling Green University and George Washington University (Master's). Her career as a guidance counselor spanned over 40 years including Prince George's County and Frederick County, MD. Survived by children Kathryn Ricard (Greg Gromada), William Joseph Ricard, Jr., grandchildren Athena, Alexa and Eliza Gromada, two nephews and many cousins.

Friends may call on February 14, 2025 from 11 a.m. until 12 p.m. at the Saint Sophia Greek Orthodox Cathedral, 36th & Mass. Ave. NW. Funeral service will begin at 12 p.m. Interment at Gate of Heaven Cemetery immediately following. Memorial contributions may be made to Saint Sophia Greek Orthodox Cathedral (<https://membership.faithdirect.net>) or to a charity of your choice.

TOLEDANO

DANIEL TOLEDANO On Monday, February 3, 2025, DANIEL TOLEDANO of Washington, DC, formerly of Cote Saint Luc, QC. Devoted father of Yann and Thierry Toledano. Dear brother of Pellette Ley, and the late Joseph Toledano. He was predeceased by his parents, Haim and Gotha Abitbol Toledano. Daniel is also survived by many loving relatives and friends. Graveside funeral services will be held on Thursday, February 13, 2025, 2 p.m. at Mt. Lebanon Cemetery, Adelphi, MD. Memorial contributions may be made to Keshet Israel Congregation (The Georgetown Synagogue), www.keshet.org. Arrangements entrusted to TORCHINSKY HEBREW FUNERAL HOME, 202-541-1001.

IN MEMORIAM

PERKINS



ELLEN CLIFFORD PERKINS 6/20/45- 2/12/20

Our beloved Bird, it has been 5 years without you and it has never gotten easier. We miss you profoundly. You were a Superwoman with a genius for transforming even the worst situations into comedy gold. Life threw you many challenges and they were always met with fierce courage. Fly on.

TER



OLESYA TAYLOR AND OLIVIA EVE TER

Our beloved Olesya and Olivia were suddenly ripped from us in the midst of life in the aircraft disaster on January 29, 2025. Olesya Taylor, beloved daughter of Olga Kostygova, wife of Andrew Ter and mother of Anne Valerie and Olivia Ter was a beautiful woman who touched many lives and left an unforgettable impression on everyone she met. Born in Mykolajiv, Ukraine and raised in Saint Petersburg, Russia, she studied medicine and became a pediatrician and neonatologist. After working in pediatrics in Russia, she emigrated to the United States and continued to work in the medical field. In 2007 she married Andrew Ter, and, after the birth of Anne Valerie and Olivia, she decided to completely dedicate her life to the development and needs of her daughters. Working tirelessly and disregarding her own needs, she did everything she could to foster her daughters' interests and abilities and give them the best possible education. Her surviving older daughter Anne Valerie is a gifted pianist who is currently studying at the Peabody Conservatory Preparatory Program under the tutelage of the Head of the Peabody Piano Department Alexander Shtrikman. Her younger daughter Olivia was on the cusp of a very promising career as a figure skater when her life was tragically cut short.

Olivia Eve Ter was an exceptionally bright child with a great sense of humor and a love of practical jokes. She was also blessed with an abundance of athletic ability and excelled in tennis and softball. She was heavily recruited by coaches in both these sports. However, during the Covid Pandemic, Olivia decided that figure skating was the sport she wanted to fully dedicate herself to. She embraced a very intense skating and workout schedule and made rapid advancements. By her 12th birthday she was able to land triple jumps – the Toe Loop, Lutz, and Salchow. She trained for the last two years under Sergii Baranov and just recently 1998 Olympic Champion Ilia Kulik joined her coaching team. At the time of her death, she was returning from the US figuring skating development camp for the best young skaters in America. She had a promising future ahead of her in both skating and life. Those she left behind will forever wonder what would have been. She was beloved and admired by her fellow skaters and coaches at the three local ice rinks at which she regularly trained. We want to thank the local skating community for the outpouring of love and support after her passing.

The survivors of this tragedy are Andrew Ter, Olesya's husband and Olivia's father, Olga Kostygova, Olesya's mother and Olivia's grandmother and Anne Valerie Ter, Olesya's daughter and Olivia's older sister. The funeral service for Olesia and Olivia will be held on Friday, February 14 at Saint Nicholas Orthodox Cathedral, 3500 Massachusetts Ave. NW, at 10 a.m.

DEATH NOTICE

DEATH NOTICE

DEATH NOTICES

INFO & RATES FOR DEATH NOTICES

Monday - Friday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Saturday 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Sundays & Federal Holidays SELF-SERVICE ONLY

To place a notice: Call: 202-334-4122 Email: deathnotices@washingtonpost.com Self-Service: <https://selfserviceadvertising.washingtonpost.com/adportal/obits/index.html>

Emails MUST include: Name, Home Address & Phone # of the responsible billing party. Email Deadline Phone-In Deadline 4 p.m. M-F & 2 p.m. Sat. CURRENT 2025 RATES: (PER DAY)

MONDAY - SATURDAY Black & White 3" - \$525 4" - \$575 5" - \$725

SUNDAY Black & White 3" - \$580 4" - \$610 5" - \$790

6" for ALL Black & White notices \$160 each additional inch Mon - Sat \$191 each additional inch Sunday

MONDAY - SATURDAY Color 3" - \$670 4" - \$725 5" - \$885

SUNDAY Color 3" - \$710 4" - \$810 5" - \$985 6" + for daily Color notices \$268 each additional inch Mon-Sat \$299 each additional inch Sunday

Notices with photos begin at 3" (All photos add 2" to your notice.)

ONLINE ONLY NOTICES Daily 4" ONLY - \$445

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The Washington Post

THE WEATHER


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From snow to mostly rain

 Linger patches of light snow, freezing drizzle or drizzle are possible until midmorning, with temperatures in the high 20s and low 30s. After that, there will be a pause in precipitation in most areas through midafternoon as temperatures rise. For the rest of the day, we'll see rain, possibly mixed with sleet, and pockets of freezing rain in colder areas. Temperatures rise to the mid-30s in the evening.

Today

Snow, rain



38° 36°

FEELS*: 35°


CHNCE PRECIP: 55%

WIND: NE 6-12 mph

HUMIDITY: High

Thursday

Morning rain



56° 29°

FEELS: 50°


P: 70%

W: WSW 8-16 mph

H: Moderate

Friday

Mostly sunny



43° 31°

FEELS: 40°


P: 0%

W: NNW 8-16 mph

H: Low

Saturday

Cloudy, afternoon rain



40° 36°

FEELS: 34°


P: 70%

W: WSW 6-12 mph

H: Moderate

Sunday

Morning rain



55° 24°

FEELS: 49°


P: 75%

W: WSW 8-16 mph

H: High

Monday

Sunny, breezy



37° 23°

FEELS: 30°

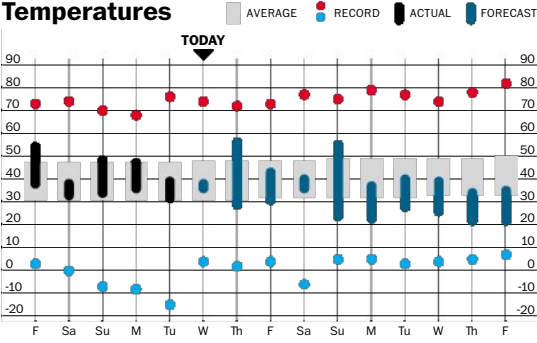
P: 0%

W: NW 10-20 mph

H: Low

OFFICIAL RECORD

Temperatures

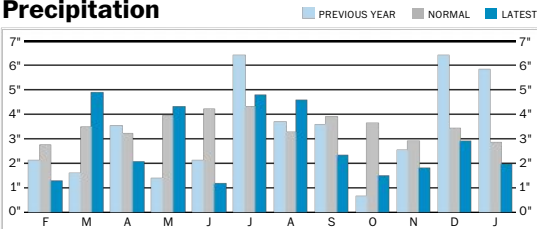


Statistics through 5 p.m. Tuesday

	National	Dulles	BWI
High	39° 1:37 p.m.	36° 12:00 p.m.	36° 2:43 p.m.
Low	32° 5:00 p.m.	27° 3:14 a.m.	27° 4:08 a.m.
Normal	47°/31°	45°/26°	46°/26°
Record high	76° 1932	71° 2009	72° 1887
Record low	-15° 1899	-7° 1979	-6° 1899

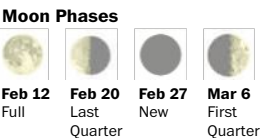
Difference from 30-yr. avg. (National): this month: +2.4° yr. to date: -1.8°

Precipitation



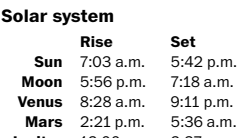
	National	Dulles	BWI
Past 24 hours	0.08"	0.07"	0.01"
Total this month	1.03"	0.80"	0.50"
Normal	1.01"	1.01"	1.10"
Total this year	2.98"	2.80"	2.09"
Normal	3.87"	3.95"	4.18"
Snow, past 24 hours	1.0"	1.0"	0.1"
Snow, season total	9.4"	11.7"	9.0"

Moon Phases



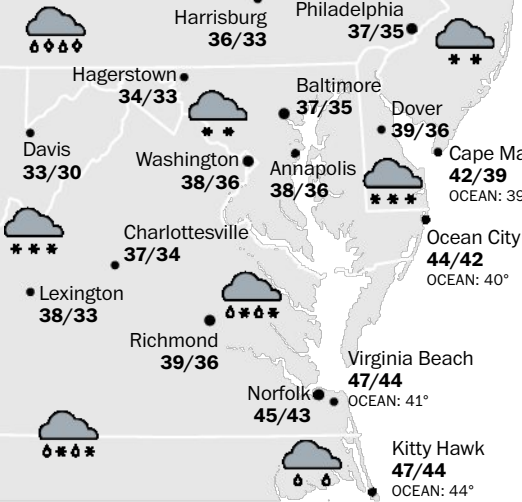
	Feb 12	Feb 20	Feb 27	Mar 6
Full		Last Quarter	New	First Quarter

Solar system



	Rise	Set
Sun	7:03 a.m.	5:42 p.m.
Moon	5:56 p.m.	7:18 a.m.
Venus	8:28 p.m.	9:11 p.m.
Mars	2:21 p.m.	5:36 a.m.
Jupiter	12:00 p.m.	2:37 a.m.
Saturn	8:14 a.m.	7:40 p.m.

REGION



Pollen: Low

Grass Low
Trees Low
Weeds Low
Mold Low

Air Quality: Good

Dominant cause: Nitrogen oxide

UV: Low

1 out of 11+

Blue Ridge: Today, a little icy mix; a little snow, some ice early in southern parts. High 32 to 36. Winds southeast 6-12 mph.

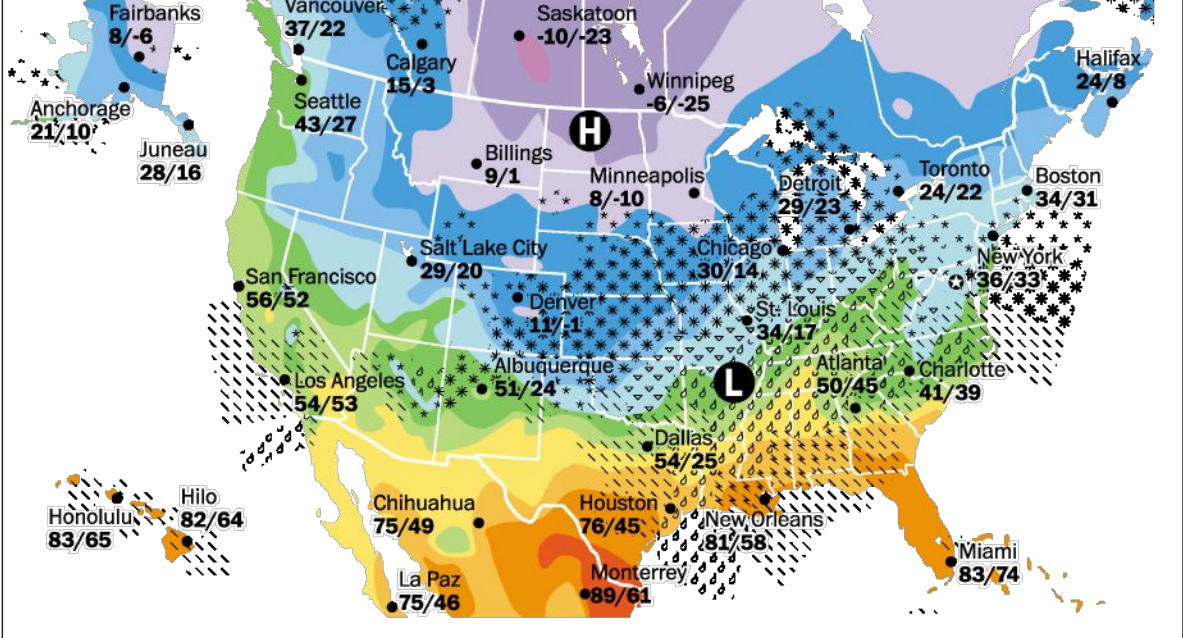
Atlantic beaches: Today, cloudy; a wintry mix with little or no accumulation, but periods of rain in the south. High 41 to 45. Winds east-northeast 15-25 mph. Tonight, periods of rain. Low 39 to 43. Winds southeast 10-20 mph.

Waterways: *Upper Potomac River:* Today, snow, flurries this morning, cloudy. Wind northeast 4-8 knots. Waves 2 feet or less. • *Lower Potomac and Chesapeake Bay:* Today, a wintry mix in the morning, cloudy. Wind northeast 10-20 knots. Waves 1-2 feet on the Lower Potomac; 2-4 feet on the Chesapeake Bay. • *River Stages:* The stage at Little Falls will be around 5.00 feet today, rising to 5.20 Thursday. Flood stage at Little Falls is 10 feet.

Today's tides (High tides in **Bold**)

	Washington	Annapolis	Ocean City	Norfolk	Point Lookout
2:36 a.m.	7:53 a.m.				
4:35 a.m.	10:53 a.m.	5:37 p.m.			
12:54 a.m.	7:19 a.m.	1:42 p.m.	7:28 p.m.		
3:05 a.m.	9:28 a.m.	3:44 p.m.	9:46 p.m.		
12:38 a.m.	7:02 a.m.	1:35 p.m.	8:08 p.m.		

NATION




Weather map features for noon today.

Tstorms Rain Showers Snow Flurries Ice Cold Front Warm Front Stationary Front


Yesterday's National High: McAllen, TX 88° Low: Ingomar, MT -43° for the 48 contiguous states

World High: Warburton, Australia 115° Low: Delyankir, Russia -64° excludes Antarctica

	Today	Tomorrow
NATIONAL		
Albany, NY	29/25/pc	45/17/sn
Albuquerque	51/24/pc	53/42/c
Anchorage	21/10/s	23/14/c
Atlanta	50/45/sh	58/35/r
Austin	79/37/pc	48/38/c
Baltimore	37/35/sn	54/26/r
Billings, MT	9/1/c	23/9/pc
Birmingham	69/48/r	59/33/pc
Bismarck, ND	0/-21/pc	15/1/s
Boise	25/11/c	32/28/sn
Boston	34/31/pc	48/23/r
Burlington, VT	20/12/pc	41/13/sn
Charleston, SC	72/63/c	76/44/r
Charleston, WV	48/43/r	54/19/c
Charlotte	41/39/r	66/32/t
Cheyenne, WY	8/-2/c	26/20/pc
Chicago	30/14/sn	19/0/s
Cincinnati	42/29/i	33/16/c
Cleveland	38/29/i	34/13/c
Dallas	54/25/r	44/33/c
Denver	11/-1/sn	31/18/c
Des Moines	17/-6/sn	17/5/s
Detroit	29/23/sn	29/7/sn
El Paso	62/42/pc	67/44/c
Fairbanks, AK	8/-6/s	5/-3/s
Fargo, ND	-1/-21/c	3/-4/s
Hartford, CT	37/30/pc	48/24/r
Honolulu	83/65/sh	83/70/pc
Houston	76/45/r	55/44/c
Indianapolis	37/24/r	28/10/c
Jackson, MS	74/43/r	56/39/s
Jacksonville, FL	86/65/s	83/52/t
Kansas City, MO	23/24/s	22/12/s
Las Vegas	53/41/c	50/48/r
Little Rock	47/30/r	46/27/c
Louisville	54/53/r	59/33/c
Louisville	46/31/r	36/18/c
Memphis	54/32/r	42/27/c
Miami	83/74/s	84/71/s
Milwaukee	28/13/sn	19/3/s
Minneapolis	8/-10/sf	8/2/s
Nashville	60/36/r	42/24/c
New Orleans	81/58/sh	67/53/sh
New York City	36/33/sf	48/29/r
Norfolk	45/43/r	65/33/r
Oklahoma City	32/11/sn	35/24/pc
Omaha	13/-10/sn	18/10/s
Orlando	87/68/s	90/66/pc
Philadelphia	37/35/sf	53/27/r
Phoenix	64/51/c	69/54/c
Pittsburgh	39/36/r	45/19/c
Portland, ME	26/19/pc	34/15/sn
Portland, OR	43/31/c	35/30/sn
Providence, RI	36/31/sf	47/23/r
Raleigh, NC	44/41/r	65/33/r
Reno, NV	45/29/pc	44/35/sn
Richmond	39/26/sn	60/27/r
Sacramento	56/49/c	61/50/r
St. Louis	34/17/sn	28/15/pc
St. Thomas, VI	85/74/s	84/75/sh
Salt Lake City	29/20/pc	38/34/r
San Diego	59/57/r	64/57/r
San Francisco	56/52/c	59/52/r
San Juan, PR	86/75/s	87/75/sh
Seattle	43/27/s	40/30/pc
Spokane, WA	22/5/s	29/22/sf
Syracuse	32/28/sf	44/21/sf
Tampa	82/70/s	82/68/pc
Wichita	22/4/sn	25/16/pc
WORLD		
Addis Ababa	78/53/pc	79/52/c
Amsterdam	41/32/c	39/31/c
Athens	51/39/pc	53/49/c
Auckland	78/60/s	78/63/pc
Baghdad	68/43/s	67/45/pc
Bangkok	96/73/pc	98/74/s
Beijing	45/17/pc	54/19/s
Berlin	39/32/s	34/28/sn
Bogota	66/51/r	65/50/r
Brussels	43/33/c	38/28/c
Buenos Aires	78/70/pc	83/70/s
Cairo	63/49/pc	65/48/s
Caracas	75/61/pc	74/62/s
Copenhagen	35/31/s	35/28/pc
Dakar	73/63/pc	73/64/pc
Dublin	43/40/r	42/39/r
Edinburgh	43/33/c	42/30/c
Frankfurt	45/31/r	42/30/sf
Geneva	51/42/sh	50/35/r
Ham., Bermuda	72/65/pc	72/65/s
Helsinki	33/24/c	28/14/s
Ho Chi Minh City	92/76/pc	93/74/c
Hong Kong	69/61/r	69/60/pc
Islamabad	73/44/s	70/43/s
Istanbul	41/36/r	45/38/s
Jerusalem	49/40/sh	50/40/pc
Johannesburg	76/58/t	77/59/r
Kabul	43/25/s	45/32/pc
Kingston, Jam.	36/77/r	36/75/r
Kolkata	89/69/pc	88/63/s
Kyiv	27/17/pc	33/22/pc
Lagos	91/78/t	92/78/s
Lima	81/72/sh	83/71/pc
Lisbon	61/49/c	61/48/pc
London	44/36/c	43/33/c
Madrid	56/36/pc	58/38/pc
Manila	91/76/pc	90/76/t
Mexico City	77/47/s	77/51/s
Montreal	12/8/s	32/8/sn
Moscow	28/19/c	26/19/c
Mumbai	92/65/pc	94/67/pc
Nairobi	80/64/c	77/60/t
New Delhi	78/53/pc	77/51/s
Oslo	30/21/s	36/13/pc
Ottawa	13/7/s	28/5/sn
Paris	44/31/c	43/29/c
Prague	35/32/c	36/27/i
Rio de Janeiro	89/77/pc	90/77/s
Riyadh	81/61/pc	75/57/sh
Rome	58/49/sh	60/51/r
San Salvador	87/64/pc	87/64/pc
Santiago	88/55/s	89/54/s
Sarajevo	49/39/r	54/40/c
Seoul	38/18/sn	42/27/s
Shanghai	52/34/c	50/37/s
Singapore	90/77/pc	90/77/c
Stockholm	30/25/c	32/21/pc
Sydney	80/73/sh	84/72/s
Taipei City	74/57/sh	62/59/r
Tehran	50/38/pc	42/34/pc
Tokyo	56/47/pc	56/39/s
Toronto	24/22/sn	31/15/sn
Vienna	33/30/sn	38/32/c
Warsaw	38/22/s	38/28/pc




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Author Rushdie testifies about attack

SEE RUSHDIE ON C4



SEE NOTEBOOK ON C3

WASHINGTON POST ILLUSTRATION; BJORN IOOSS/EBERJAY; IMOGENE AND WILLIE; KATE MCLEOD; KINN; SMYTHSON; ISTOCK

I overheard my mother-in-law bad-mouthing my mom. c4

Fashion designers as lifestyle gurus

FASHION FROM CI

young women in search of a new
muse: Here is your girl!

Sui may have a firm handle on tried-and-true New York glamour. But the question of what glamour means today hangs over American designers, who have taken it up this season as a theme, a *cri de coeur*. Clearly, it is a quality Melania Trump, with her precise hats and perfect tailoring, hopes to bring to the White House. And we have Ivanka Trump doing cosplay of the 20th century's most glamorous woman, Audrey Hepburn, at an inaugural ball. Kristi L. Noem has even taken to playing dress-up in her role as Homeland Security secretary, donning a cowboy hat and mounting a horse to visit the southern border.

This is an administration, and a movement, that articulates itself through immediately understandable “looks.” Tutorials for “Republican hair and makeup,” both sardonic and serious, are becoming a social media trend. Really, this sort of glamour is about there being a “correct” or “right” way to look as a woman — an idea rooted in early- and mid-20th-century notions of female beauty shaped by the male gaze. (Incidentally, this is also what drag culture celebrates and mocks.)

In the face of that aesthetic oppression, though, comes the history of reactionary glamour — the 1970s punk and romanticist movements, for example, in which artists, musicians and designers were rebelling against a landscape of urban blight by improvising new ideas for beauty with limited resources or materials. The same thinking is at the heart of voguing. You don't just “make do”; you defy your surroundings or your resources to exalt your survival.

Rachel Scott, the lauded Jamaican designer behind the label Di-otima, talked about her presentation Monday night as a reaction against the election. "I was very angry," she said, and that inspired her to make groupings of gowns and macramé suits that have a spontaneous feel, inspired by bed clothing and draped directly on the body. "She feels misunderstood," she said of her muses, "aunties, trans women, grandmas

and friends." You might see the purity of Scott's garments (and maybe those of Jerry Lorenzo and Grace Wales Bonner) as an alternative to the minimalist brands that are vying for the Row's customers. "The minimalism we've seen is quite scary," she said. "It serves to support white supremacy, in a way — you know, quiet luxury. I find it extremely problematic."

A similar spirit of defiance was in Eckhaus Latta's Saturday afternoon show: sexy low-rise pants, clingy knit dresses, awesome leather bombers and bong-toting guys who look like hot ceramicists who ghost you on Tinder. (This is what Calvin Klein should look like: great jeans, T-shirts and leather.) This brand is a whole world: people under 40, say, who live in Los Angeles and New York and work in creative industries, wearing these sexy jeans with their Agnes B snap sweaters and Issey Miyake Pleats Please pants. The Eckhaus Latta audience, which has an outsize representation of queer and trans people, people of color, immigrants and working mothers, is feeling the effects of the political atmosphere. And this collection felt like a bit of a screw-you to the world imagined by the White House.

Dominican American Raul Lopez said this more overtly in a preview of his label, Luar, this past weekend. "With all that's going on, I just feel like, I'm not f---ing going back in the closet for nobody," he said. His collection, El Pato, which is a word used in the Dominican Republic as a gay slur, was a mix of ultra-femme and macho, with some garments setting models' wrists permanently limp and in your face, and hats and shoes and jackets seemingly taped or glued. Is it wearable? Not really (and you wish there were some more straightforward dresses or a reliable trouser shape thrown in), but Lopez tells a quintessential American story of glittering endurance.

Other designers who take a more classic approach to glamour also shook up the old playbook as an act of defiance against the tides. Oh, what wonders Wes Gordon is working at Carolina Herrera, the prestigious American label that has dressed seemingly countless first ladies. Here is American classicism, that

sort of "correct glamour" done with a modern hand rather than one stuck in the past. Gordon updates the rules. Every gown is considered: A black column wound with gold paillettes and beads is still light as a feather; a black-and-white beaded crinoline dress appeared to float. It would be good to see some cool celebrities get a little freaky with Herrera; people like the Haim sisters or Ayo Edebiri would look fabulous in a green brocade mini-dress with a black velvet trim, or those crinoline skirts worn with big white shirts. That will push the label further into the zeitgeist, where it could provide a broader course correction in our notion of beauty.

Similarly sincere is Sergio Hudson, a Black designer from South Carolina. Looking at a cream-tweed suit over a turtleneck or a pinstripe suit under a chalk-stripe coat, both with a fitted jacket and Katharine Hepburn wide-leg pant, I thought: I'm so sick of boxy jackets. Oversize tailoring, so un-serious! But by putting these feminine shapes in masculine fabrics (and adding ties or other macho gestures throughout), Hudson keeps it, well, glamorous.

But the master of this concept is Tory Burch. She is a woman thinking obsessively about what women today should want to, and deserve to, wear. In her back-to-the-office tweedy skirt-suit looks, you can see her carefully, almost tenderly, embracing her role as the millennial woman's Ralph Lauren. She made a number of pristine jackets that hugged at the waist and were paneled at the back, with sleeves generously sculpted into a semifitted bell. (Plattered to everyone.) She had kooky cocktail dresses with little fur tails bobbing at the shoulders to indulge us. And a pair of track pants that she showed with loopy sweaters, one sleeve pinned at the shoulder, could be every 35-year-old's weekend errand uniform.

Women really plugged in to fashion are much more interested in creating "style" than following a designer's runway ideas; good (or popular) designers right now are almost more like lifestyle gurus. And Burch (along with the Olsen sisters of the Row) may be the designer most comfortable with her role as a maker who serves and suggests and provides good clothes, rather than dictates.



MARVIN JOSEPH/THE WASHINGTON POST



JONAS GUSTAVSSON FOR THE WASHINGTON POST



JONAS GUSTAVSSON FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Clockwise from top, the Tory Burch show, the Carolina Herrera show and the Sergio Hudson show. Burch is a woman thinking obsessively about what women today should want to, and deserve to, wear.

Women really plugged in to fashion are much more interested in creating “style” than following a designer’s runway ideas.

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NOTEBOOK FROM C1

The tax code was later tweaked, making it attractive for donors to give their art to public collections rather than sell it, and art started flowing once again into museums across the country. But the fate of the painting, the whereabouts of which remain unknown to this day, demonstrates how even arcane parts of federal law can have enormous consequences for cultural life and the arts.

In the first few days after Trump returned to office, with a flurry of executive orders targeting diversity, equity and inclusion programs and work policies, the initial targets included arts and culture groups that directly use federal funding for some part of their budget, including the National Gallery of Art, the Smithsonian Institution and the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. The former two quickly confirmed that they were in compliance with president's executive orders, and a Kennedy Center spokesperson confirmed the same in an email to The Washington Post.

The rapidity of that acquiescence, from institutions that had previously made equity and access fundamental not just to their hiring but to their programming and identity, prompted deep concern — panic would be a better word — among other groups that suddenly felt vulnerable to attack.

“This isn’t about hiring practices,” said one arts leader, well connected to large nonprofit funders of the cultural sector, who, like most people interviewed for this article, spoke on the condition of anonymity for fear of endangering their organizations. “It is deeply existential.”

It also felt personal to some arts leaders whose staffs include people of color tasked with building diverse audiences, and nonbinary and trans people who have been attacked with overtly hostile and threatening rhetoric.

“Some of our staff were being told they don’t exist anymore,” said a veteran performing arts executive. “It threatens the spirit of who we are, what we do and how we do it.”

The day after his inauguration, the president extended his campaign against DEI programs to the private sector with an executive action targeting publicly traded corporations, large nonprofits, universities and more. And then last week, the NEA said that grants for 2026 would no longer include a program for underserved communities and would prioritize projects celebrating the nation’s semiquincentennial anniversary.

Those actions, along with the rhetoric of top Trump officials vilifying groups like the Ford Foundation, recent court rulings that have radically reinterpreted laws governing charitable giving, and the basic confusion and lack of clarity about the executive orders, have led to growing alarm about the future of the arts not just in federally funded Washington but across America.

What if this isn’t about DEI but is rather a wholesale attack on the nonprofit world, with the aim of crippling or silencing groups that have traditionally been independent of government coercion?

In the first few days of the administration, the confusion was most disruptive.

“What we need is clarity as to what is illegal and what isn’t,” said Andrew Finch, director of policy for the Association of Art Museum Directors. “At the moment, we don’t have that.”

There was a cascade of questions, and no one to answer them. Did the proscription against DEI programs apply only to hiring? Could a grant that included so-called DEI language be made acceptable simply by removing that language or curtailing that part of the grant’s purpose? And what did the curious word “illegal” mean in the original executive order, which called for the “termination of all discriminatory programs, including illegal DEI and ‘diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility’ (DEIA) mandates, policies, programs, preferences, and activities in the Federal Government?”

“At the moment, anyone with an open grant is looking at it, and trying to figure out which components are DEI, which of those are legal and which could be impacted,” said one adviser to the arts sector.

Future planning was thrown into chaos. Attacks on the federal endowments, including the NEA and the National Endowment for the Humanities, are a perennial form of Washington theater, and arts leaders are used to the drama. But the endowments have proved remarkably resilient, and under the previous Trump administration, Congress actually increased funding for the NEA. And while money from the agencies helps support programming, it is a relatively small part of most organizations’ budgets.

But there are federal programs

Uncertainty in how to counter actions



BILL O'LEARY/THE WASHINGTON POST



BILL O'LEARY/THE WASHINGTON POST



TIERNEY L. CROSS FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: Steps leading to the Kennedy Center. “The Salon of 1874” by Camille-Léopold Cabailot-Lassalle at the “Paris 1874: The Impressionist Moment” exhibition in September at the National Gallery of Art. The Kennedy Center’s Grand Foyer.

“This isn’t about hiring practices. It is deeply existential.”

An arts leader who spoke on the condition of anonymity

that do play a vital role, especially the Arts and Artifacts Indemnity program, which covers what would be the prohibitive cost of insuring priceless objects loaned to exhibitions around the country, including the National Gallery of Art’s celebrated “Paris 1874: The Impressionist Moment” and the Metropolitan Museum of Art’s equally admired “Siena: The Rise of Painting, 1300-1350.”

What if the Trump administration eliminated that program? And what about its ability to refuse visas to traveling artists, or simply delay their approval until concert dates are missed?

The nonprofit sector, like the subsidiary arts and culture sector, is not monolithic. A hospital may be technically “nonprofit,” but not mission-driven and indistinguishable (from the patient’s point of view) from a for-profit entity. Large cultural and educational institutions, like the National Geographic Society, may lend their name to and share in

the revenue of lucrative commercial partnerships. A wealthy collector may donate art to a museum for altruistic purposes, yet reap enormous tax benefits unavailable to people of lesser means.

Congress is always considering various forms of oversight, regulation and taxation of the large, heterogeneous nonprofit world. The public rarely pays attention until something like a major Van Gogh painting slips into the private sector — or a new administration arrives intent on radical change.

During previous crises, many arts professionals were reluctant to talk about hypotheticals for fear of “offering a road map” to government actors intent on mischief. Now there is fear that the road map is already in place.

A court ruling last summer in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit may be part of the map. In *American Alliance for Equal Rights v. Fearless Fund*, the

court bypassed long-standing precedent to decide that a charitable fund created to provide grants to businesses owned by Black women violated the Civil Rights Act of 1866. Fearless Fund, an Atlanta-based venture-capital firm, settled the case brought by a conservative political group and agreed to close its “Strivers Grant” contest.

Roger Colinvaux, a law professor at the Catholic University of America specializing in nonprofit organizations and philanthropy, said the decision is limited and applies only in the 11th Circuit. But it is making waves.

“Obviously, it has a chilling effect, and many charities are aware of the ruling and don’t want to be sued because lawsuits are expensive and resource intensive,” he said.

The Fearless decision struck at the core of the charity’s mission and identity, and could inspire other groups (including the government) to extend attacks on

DEI-related hiring practices and programming initiatives.

The tax code, which may have sent the “Portrait of Dr. Gache” into private hands, is another powerful tool.

“Anything that impacts the tax deductibility of the full market value of a work of art would impact not just our museum, but all of our museums,” said one longtime director of a major regional museum.

The tax code might also be changed to harvest revenue from organizations targeted in the president’s DEI executive orders: large foundations and university endowments. In 2021, JD Vance attacked the Ford Foundation for “investing in the racial division all across our country,” calling Ford and similar large foundations “social-justice hedge funds.” He proposed taxing them at much higher rates than they pay now. There have also been calls for more punitive taxation of large university endowments.

Even if there is no explicit agenda to silence these groups, taxing them more heavily could remove money from the arts and culture ecosystem, especially if donors have to step up to meet social welfare needs as government spending is withdrawn. Universities, which are already wavering in their commitment to the arts and humanities, might make up for lost money by cutting the most vulnerable programs, including the arts.

At this point, there is no sense of an emerging strategy for countering threats, especially those that might hit at the heart of the cultural sector. One longtime arts leader is worried about generational changes that may make the arts more vulnerable than they have ever been. The Smithsonian once relied on long-serving politicians on both sides of the aisle for defense when funding was cut or exhibitions attacked. Sens. Diane Feinstein (D) and Patrick J. Leahy (D) and Rep. Jim Leach (R) were cited as powerful forces for preserving the institution, but Leach and Feinstein are dead, and Leahy is retired.

Many of those in leadership at arts institutions today are too young to have been in the trenches during the culture wars of the 1980s and ’90s. And the crisis is fundamentally different this time around. The culture wars were opportunistic battles fought in the media by groups like Bill Donohue’s Catholic League, which specialized in targeted homophobic attacks on exhibitions like the “Hide/Seek” show at the Smithsonian in 2010. They were damaging, but more like brush fires, brief and intense but without lasting impact on programming. If the current administration succeeds in chilling any discussion of equity in the public square, the impact will be systemic and catastrophic.

Others worry that poorly administered and overly blunt DEI policies of the past have left them open to the Trump administration’s wholesale effort to take equity off the table as a legitimate topic of cultural conversation. In some cases, DEI programs were superficial or performative, a public relations strategy, not genuine restructuring, especially those instituted by larger organizations responding to the murder of George Floyd in 2020. But now any conversation about how the arts can be more accessible will happen under the shadow of a concerted campaign to discredit the idea entirely.

At the moment, fear and disarray are widespread, but some cling to the hope that the basic principles of DEI are well enough embedded in cultural institutions that they will survive the current assault.

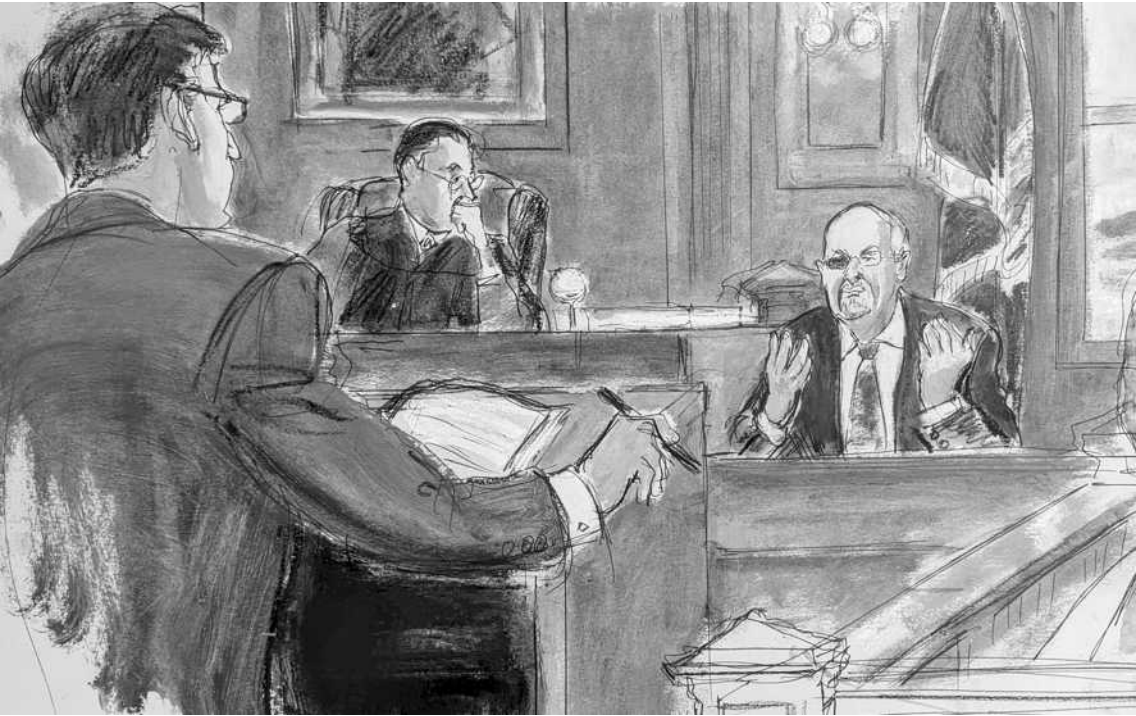
“You can get to the core question sometimes just by reframing the language,” said one museum leader.

However, the language of the executive orders seems to anticipate all of this. The Jan. 20 edict on “wasteful government DEI programs” uses the phrase “under whatever name they appear,” and emails sent to department heads encouraged federal employees to act as informants against colleagues who “disguise” a DEI agenda. If there was internal grumbling within the cultural sector about occasional overzealous efforts to police language, the administration seems to have adopted policing language as official policy.

If extended to the private sector, this could look a lot like the McCarthyism of the 1950s, or worse. And that would force cultural groups to make hard decisions about their basic values. We may already be at that point.

“Lawyers can tell you the legal risk of an action and might advise an organization not to take a given chance,” said one longtime observer of trends in the museum sector in an email. “But there may be risks of inaction as well — reputational, for example, or damage to mission. When you look at potential dystopic futures, often the path from here to there is made possible from everyone, individually, doing what seems to be safest in the short term.”

It’s an idea as old as fascism. Last week, the Library of Congress presented a recital by baritone Holger Falk, who sang songs by Hanns Eisler, a German-Austrian anti-fascist composer born in 1898. Eisler fled the Nazis and found refuge in America in 1938. Within 10 years, he was hauled before the House Committee on Un-American Activities, and then deported for his support of left-wing causes. Eisler and his favorite lyricist, Bertolt Brecht, challenged the naked greed, needless cruelty and cynical patriotism endemic to fascism. It was bracing to hear, history glistening like a fresh, bloody wound, and one wondered whether anyone would complain, and how long it will be before this kind of program elicits extra scrutiny, if it isn’t scuttled altogether.



In this courtroom sketch, District Attorney Jason Schmidt, left, questions Salman Rushdie, right, on the witness stand, as Judge David Foley presides during the trial of Hadi Matar in Mayville, New York.

Rushdie recounts attack on him at event in Western New York

RUSHDIE FROM C1

He described a chaotic scene in which Reese came to Rushdie's aid and was sliced above his eye. Reese and others subdued Matar, Schmidt said, until police took him into custody.

From the witness stand on Tuesday, Rushdie described in detail being attacked while seated onstage, rising to his feet to escape, then collapsing on his side, having been stabbed more than a dozen times.

"I thought he was hitting me with his fist," Rushdie said. "Very soon afterwards, I saw a large quantity of blood pouring out onto my clothes."

Rushdie suffered a stab wound to his right eye that severed the optic nerve. Tendons and nerves in his left hand were damaged. He was slashed across the neck and waist, and he was stabbed multiple times in the chest.

He described undergoing life-saving surgery at UPMC Hamot, a hospital in Erie, Pennsylvania. He spent 17 days recovering at the hospital, followed by more than three weeks of inpatient rehabilitation in New York City.

Matar appeared to listen intently as Rushdie described the attack and his injuries, seldom looking up. Poised with a pen, he occasionally scribbled on a piece

of paper.

On cross-examination by public defender Lynn Schaffer, Rushdie admitted that trauma could create false memories of the attack, including a sequence in which he incorrectly recalled having stood to face his attacker.

Rushdie, who won a Booker Prize in 1981 for his novel "Midnight's Children," has recovered sufficiently from his injuries to make public appearances, including headlining international literary events.

"I saw a large quantity of blood pouring out onto my clothes."

Salman Rushdie, in his testimony

In 1988, Rushdie published "The Satanic Verses," a novel that some Muslims considered blasphemous for its depiction of parts of the Prophet Muhammad's life. In 1989, Iranian Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini issued a fatwa calling for Rushdie's death. Rushdie lived in hiding in the United Kingdom for many years after that, but by 2000 had moved to New York City, where he lived openly.

Schmidt has said he will not raise the issue of the fatwa or Islamic terrorism during the trial. Matar will face federal terrorism charges in a later trial.

In July, Matar rejected an offer from prosecutors that would have resulted in a 20-year prison sentence in exchange for pleading guilty to attempted murder on the state charges. However, he would also have been required to plead guilty to a federal charge of attempting to provide material support to a terrorist organization, which could result in an additional 20-year sentence.

If convicted of the state charge of attempted murder, Matar faces a sentence of up to 25 years.

On Monday, jurors also heard from two eyewitnesses who were working at the Chautauqua Institution on the day of the attack.

On Tuesday afternoon, Chautauqua County Sheriff Deputy Jason Beichner testified of a "very chaotic" scene on the day of the attack.

The court will be closed Wednesday, in observance of Abraham Lincoln's birthday. The trial will resume Thursday.

Schmidt said he expects to present evidence for up to two weeks. Reese and Rushdie's son, Zafar, are expected to testify, along with doctors who treated Rushdie.

THEATER REVIEW

'Fuenteovejuna': A town in Spain has to fend off a tyrant

BY MISSY FREDERICK

"We kill the tyrants or die trying to, for we are many and they are few," proclaims a mayor pushed to his limits in a new adaptation from Spanish playwright Juan Mayorga of the classic 17th-century work "Fuenteovejuna."

Claims of tyranny haven't exactly disappeared from the headlines in 2025. And GALA Hispanic Theatre's U.S. premiere production, directed by José Luis Arellano, brings a contemporary freshness to a storied Lope de Vega work that still feels urgent and stirring, weaving together snippets of song, dance and verse as it meditates on the collective strength a group united can wage upon a corrupt leader.

"Fuenteovejuna" (performed in Spanish with English supertitles, and reasonably easy to follow for those not fluent in the former) tells the tale of a town grappling with injustice after a devious commander (Iker Lastra) reveals his brutality, aiming to take advantage of two of the town's women, Laurencia (Julia Adun) and Pascuala (Catherine Núñez), and initiating force against the men who attempt to defend them.

After the commander's treach-

ery comes to a head, and Laurencia gives a devastating monologue dismissing the townspeople as sheep for allowing him to harm and imprison her, they finally take violent action against him. When the townspeople adopt an "I am Spartacus" response to the crime, with everyone resolutely claiming "Fuenteovejuna" (the name of the town), rather than any one person, as the party responsible for harming the commander, it falls in the hands of the queen (María Les Etoiles) to dispel justice.

It's the women who are the real backbone of this rebellion.

GALA's production invokes repetition to emphasize the playwright's most poetic phrases ("Why do you hide, lovely girl? My lynx-eyed desire scales walls"), using them to open scenes or setting them to music. Adun's smoky alto gets showcased in several brief but lovely moments.

The set is spare, with a dirt

floor, a semicircle of benches and a large swinging pendulum at the center of the stage. A camera looks down at the action from above and projects on the back wall, adding an additional viewpoint to scenes of combat and despair. Aldo Ortega, a DJ armed with an electric guitar, underscores tense moments of action with pulsing riffs.

Costuming leans contemporary black-and-white with occasional moody accents, such as the eerie black sheep heads donned by the crew as the second act commences. That moment packs a punch, though not every visual lands as successfully, such as a scene where the townsfolk feel like they're playing hot potato with a shrouded severed head.


Lastra brings a captivating, sardonic intensity to the role of commander; he's well-matched by the bold and confident Adun, playing the character's true adversary. But while the men of the town can be commended for their bravery and solidarity, it's the women who are the real backbone of this rebellion.

Fuenteovejuna, through March 2 at GALA Hispanic Theatre in Washington. Around two hours with a 15-minute intermission. gالاتheater.org.



Julia Adun, left, and Catherine Núñez in GALA Hispanic Theatre's "Fuenteovejuna."

Mother-in-law blames the other grandma for distance from the grandchildren

**Dear Carolyn:** My mother-in-law made a comment to one of my husband's cousins during a recent gathering that I unfortunately overheard. My mother-in-law stated that she doesn't get to see my young children much due to the "overpowering other grandmother."

This infuriated me. My husband and I both work full time, and my job includes nights. My mother comes to help with the kids about once per week; she has offered. My mother-in-law has never offered to help and in fact comes to our area frequently, about weekly, but does not ask or offer to come visit. We try to see her at least once a month, but this usually involves our traveling to her. On the rare occasion she does ask to come to our house, we have welcomed her.

This is not the only time she has made awkward or hurtful comments about people I care

deeply about, including my husband. I want to tell her she spoke falsely about my mother and the situation at hand, but my husband suggests it wouldn't help and to let it go.

I now find it hard(er) to be around her. Is it unreasonable to bring up my concerns?

— *Angry and Frustrated Daughter-in-Law*

Angry and Frustrated Daughter-in-Law: It might be unreasonable even to have your concerns, if I'm reading the whole problem correctly.

You seem to be saying that your mom gets to help with the kids weekly because she offered, and your mother-in-law doesn't get to help with the kids weekly because she never offered.

If that's accurate, then a minor cultural difference could explain the whole problem: Your mother-in-law might view offering as pushy. She may have been waiting all this time to be asked — and all this time, as a corollary, thinking you asked your mom but you didn't ask her.



That's just a theory, one of a possible many. But if you want more of your mother-in-law's help, or truly want her to feel as welcome in your home and family as your mom feels — or, other extreme, if you'd take some satisfaction in calling her bluff — then, by all means, invite your mother-in-law to start coming by once a week, too. Spell it out, even: "I overheard you the other day. My mom comes once a week because she offered and we accepted. It never occurred to us you might feel left out. If you want to help, too, wonderful. We worried you would feel cornered if we asked."

Another theory (bolstered by her "hurtful comments" tendency) is that your mother-in-law knows full well she could help weekly and chooses not to — but feels guilty and wants to appear the martyr. So she fashioned herself as the odd grandmother out as a convenient cover story. Face saved. So many sons- and daughters-in-law do favor their own mothers, I bet this

narrative is a hit with her friend group.

Or, Theory No. 3 (pardon any typos, I'm writing this from under my desk), you favor your mom more than you realize — so your mother-in-law hasn't felt as welcome or seen her son or bonded with her grandkids as she hoped.


This wouldn't excuse her trashing anyone to a cousin, of course. But forgiving her and at least trialing a kind of radical fairness would jibe with each theory *and* fit into the general wisdom of treating your in-laws as you want someday to be treated.

Before you harrumph this idea out of consideration, allow me to note that your kids, right now, including a son, are watching and learning from you.

Write to Carolyn Hax at tellme@washpost.com. Get her column delivered to your inbox each morning at wapo.st/gethax.

Join the discussion live at noon Fridays at washingtonpost.com/live-chats.

the **GUIDE** to the Lively Arts

SHOW NAME	DATES & TIMES	DESCRIPTION	DETAILS	PRICE	ADDITIONAL
MUSIC - CHAMBER					
 United States Marine Chamber Orchestra "Chamber Music Series"	Sunday, Feb. 16 at 2 p.m.	Modern selections by Jessie Montgomery, Jenni Brandon and Libby Larsen are paired with Vaclav Nelhybel's Ludus for Three Tubas. Paul Juon's Trio-Miniaturen, Opp. 18a, 24 and Bohuslav Martinů's Suite from La Revue de Cuisine round out the program.	Montgomery College- Cultural Arts Center 7995 Georgia Ave, Silver Spring, MD 20910 Full Details: www.marineband.marines.mil	FREE, No Tickets Required	Free parking available at venue

The Guide to the Lively Arts appears: • Sunday in Arts & Style. deadline: Tues., 12 noon

• Monday in Style. deadline: Friday, 12 noon • Tuesday in Style. deadline: Mon., 12 noon • Wednesday in Style. deadline: Tues., 12 noon

• Thursday in Style. deadline: Wed., 12 noon • Friday in Weekend. deadline: Tues., 12 noon • Saturday in Style. deadline: Friday, 12 noon

For information about advertising, call Jason Samuel at 202-334-4776.

To reach a representative, call: 202-334-7006 | guidetoarts@washpost.com

Valentine’s Day gifts for every stage in your relationship

BY CHLOE ANELLO

Valentine’s Day is a notoriously difficult holiday for gift-giving. The equation for the perfect gift is endlessly variable — and changes along with every shift in relationship status. We’ve picked a gift for every stage of a relationship, from the giddy early days to the golden years and everything in between. While no physical gift can beat an experience shared together (and plenty of happy couples happily ignore the holiday altogether), sometimes it’s nice to unwrap a little something. For links to items, visit [wapo.st/v-day-guide](#).



LITERIE

You’re almost official
Literie candles describe super specific things, such as “beers at the ballpark,” “afternoon in Central Park” and “bodega coffee.” Pick the one that captures something about your relationship. Love to stay in with a pizza and a movie? We recommend the “pizza from a guy named Joe” scent, above.
Literie candle, \$45

It’s love, even if you haven’t said it yet
If you’re not ready to jump to “I love you” just yet, a heart-shaped necklace from Kara Yoo might just do the trick.
Kara Yoo necklace, \$130

You’re moving in together
An extra-nice key ring from luxury leather goods brand Smythson will show you care — and will help keep track of the keys to your brand-new place. Minimalists might prefer the plain strap, and less expensive options from Leatherology or Areaware are just as thoughtful.
Smythson key chain, \$105



NÉCESSAIRE

It’s been a few years, and you want to keep the spark alive
For a sexy, not-so-subtle gift, Nécessaire makes a silicone- and paraben-free vegan lube, above, that is great for sensitive skin and is pH-optimized. The bottle looks chic and sophisticated, so you won’t be embarrassed to bring it out.
Nécessaire personal lubricant, \$28

You just renewed your lease together
To celebrate another year living and entertaining together, try the 100 percent brass coasters from eclectic brand Ifsthetic. Once the coasters are doled out, the holder perfectly fits a wine bottle, so you’ll never need to get up when your friends arrive. The set also comes in a dark wood.
Ifsthetic coaster set, \$160

You’re engaged and not sure what gift can top a diamond ring
Don’t bother with jewelry. Cocktail picks and wine glass markers from Joanna Buchanan offer a bit of glam and make for a good conversation starter. The brand offers other charms in picks with flowers, nautical flags, gems, zodiac signs and more.
Joanna Buchanan cocktail party set, \$148

You just got married in a budget-breaking wedding
Socks might not scream romance, but the ones with little hearts from Imogene and Willie, for men and women, are awfully cute. Ethically made in the United States from organic cotton, the socks are compatible with any budget.
Imogene and Willie socks, \$28



KINN

You just eloped and want to do something special
Use a bit of the cash you saved by skipping the big wedding on a forever piece from Kinn Studio, above. Load a 14k gold locket up with a wedding-day picture for an extra layer to unwrap.
Kinn Studio locket, \$500

You’re both mid-career and away on business on Valentine’s
With busy schedules comes a serious need for organization — and the most Type A of us find organization materials particularly romantic. Gift some brightly colored sticky notes to your fellow overachiever when you’re in town the week after.
Papier sticky notes, \$18

You’re expecting your first baby
Spend Valentine’s Day together alone under a cozy blanket from Kashwère — which is also machine-washable and not too precious to have around once the baby arrives.
Kashwère blanket, \$168

You have kids and want to do something nice for each other
It can be tough to take care of yourselves when you have to keep another tiny human alive. Applying the cocoa butter lotion bar from Kate McLeod offers a meditative moment for a busy parent who may not have time for an hour-long bath. There’s also a fragrance-free option and more on-theme heart-shaped versions.
Kate McLeod lotion bar, \$45

You’re long distance and celebrating virtually this year
From the makers of the ubiquitous Five Minute Journal, the Get Closer couples game encourages deeper conversations together. Easily played via Zoom, it asks questions such as, “What is your favorite memory of our relationship?” or “What is your favorite ritual of ours?” The game inspires meaningful conversations and closeness that may be missing when you’re long distance.
Intelligent Change’s Get Closer game, \$34



ALEX MILL

You will be spending Valentine’s Day at your kid’s basketball game
Perhaps this scenario lacks the romance of past years’ Valentine’s, but a good gift can make it kind of sweet. An Alex Mill tote, above, which can be personalized, accommodates all the snacks and drinks you need for a cozy courtside date.
Alex Mill tote, \$175

You’ve been together for 20-something years and have already given each other everything
Safe to say the old reliables — jewelry, ties, flowers, photo frames — have become less reliable over time. When you’ve spent decades together, what you really care about is creating and holding on to memories. An Artifact Uprising desk calendar can remind your partner of everything you have to look forward to that year, while also allowing them to look back on precious moments, thanks to the ability to customize it with personal images.
Artifact Uprising easel and calendar, \$59



BJORN IOOSS/EBERJEY

You forgot about Valentine’s Day last year and want to make up for it
You can’t go wrong with high-end pajamas. Eberjey, which offers options for men and women, is known for its buttery-soft and breathable Tencel material, but the washable silk sets, above, are a step up. The luxurious material is processed without harmful chemicals and dyes yet can be treated as freely as the modal pair.
Eberjey silk pajamas, \$298

You’ve been together long enough to finally take a dream vacation
Even if your forthcoming trip is eating up this year’s discretionary income, you can still offer a little something to unwrap on Valentine’s, such as a travel jewelry case from Dagne Dover. A tech case, glasses holder or toiletry bag would be just as worthwhile.
Dagne Dover travel jewelry case, \$55

Reader’s adult nephew is struggling to launch. How can concerned aunt help?

Asking
Eric

R. ERIC
THOMAS

Dear Eric: I have a mid-20s nephew who appears to be afflicted with a severe case of failure-to-launch syndrome. He dropped out of college after six months, moved in with his mom (my sister), only interacts with peers via gaming, and comes across as utterly apathetic and disengaged from the world. There was a ray of hope when he went back to school and got an associate’s degree, but he has taken very few steps in the intervening year to find a job in his field. I offered — and he accepted — some résumé/job-hunting support. But after spending many hours patiently and sensitively trying to help him (I have experience here and feel I did a pretty good job), I came to the realization that none of it is being absorbed or

acted upon. Other family members and I are deeply worried about his trajectory and feel at a total loss as to how to help. It is a very sensitive subject with my sister, who is dealing with her own issues, and I don’t know how or whether to approach her with my concerns. I would love your thoughts.

— Concerned Aunt

Aunt: Sharing your concerns with your sister may be less helpful than expressing support and helping her find potential solutions. You’ve already started down this road, of course, with the job-hunting help for your nephew. But I worry that telling your sister about problems she’s probably already aware of will add more to her burden instead of lightening it. It would be wise of your sister to talk with her son about getting a job, paying rent to

her and discussing with him his vision for his life. You can coach her through this conversation. But your first priority should be checking in to see how you can help her in other ways. You mention that she’s going through her own issues. A good first step is just letting her know that you see how much she’s carrying and that you want to be of assistance. Perhaps that assistance is just listening. Perhaps it’s providing support around the house. Perhaps it’s helping her search for a therapist or helping your nephew to search for a therapist or mentor. Listening is going to go a lot further than reminding her of another thing she should be concerned about. And, by listening, you may discover another path to help your nephew move through this phase.

Dear Eric: I have a very good friend who has been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer that has metastasized to her kidneys. She informed me of this in a brief text also saying that she just couldn’t talk to me yet. I’ve sent her comforting gifts and cards as well as texted her a few times with no response. We taught together on the same middle school team for years. We retired the same day. We met for lunch once a month for the past 10 years. I have only learned from a group email sent by our former principal that she is refusing chemo and any other treatment. She is also not accepting any calls or visitors. Her daughter is staying with her at the moment, and her husband is taking care of said daughter’s children in another state. She and I are from Pennsylvania. I am in Texas for the months of January and

February. I left for Texas a few days after receiving this sad news. I continue to send cards with brief notes, which are hard to compose. What should I do? What can I do?

— Friend in Pain

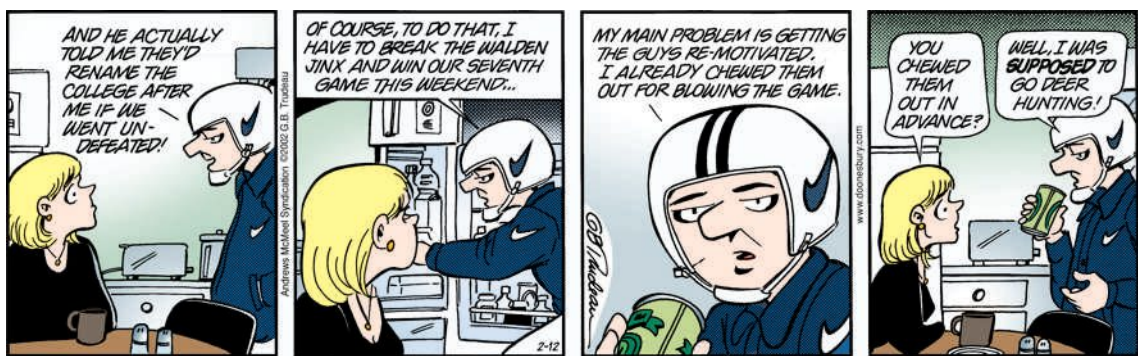
Friend: I’m so sorry for what your friend is going through and I’m so sorry for the pain you’re experiencing, too. This is an impossible situation. But one of the kindest things you can do for your friend may also be the hardest: Accept that this is how she’s navigating this period in her life and love her through it from afar. Some of the ways she chose to communicate suggest that the task of updating and engaging with her friends and loved ones about her health is overwhelming. That’s completely understandable. Even though her friends’ intentions are good, she may

not be in a place to hold them or respond to them. She may only have the capacity to be with her family right now. You did the right thing by sending the cards and texts. She may have the emotional fortitude to read them but not the capacity to respond. You may want to write her a letter expressing what she has meant to you, knowing that, even if she is not able to respond, it may help her or her family, and it may help you to process what you’re feeling, too.

Send questions to R. Eric Thomas at eric@askingeric.com or P.O. Box 22474, Philadelphia, PA 19110. Follow him on Instagram and sign up for his weekly newsletter at rerictthomas.com.

CLASSIC DOONESBURY

GARRY TRUDEAU



PICKLES

BRIAN CRANE



RED AND ROVER

BRIAN BASSET



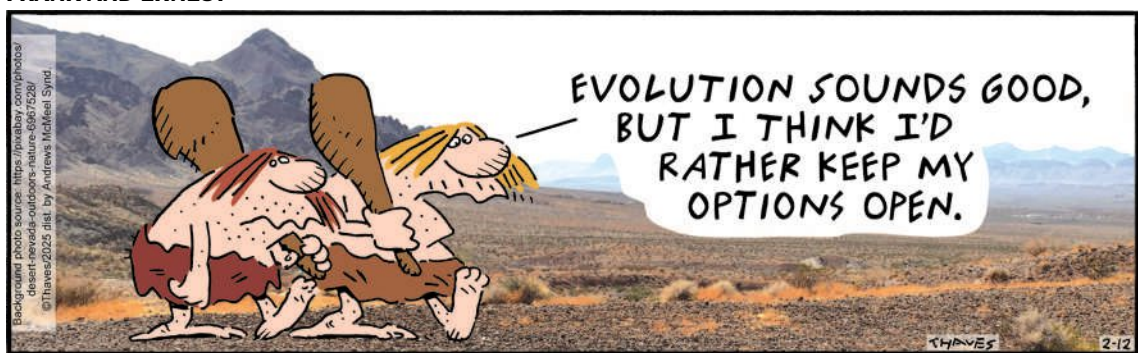
AGNES

TONY COCHRAN



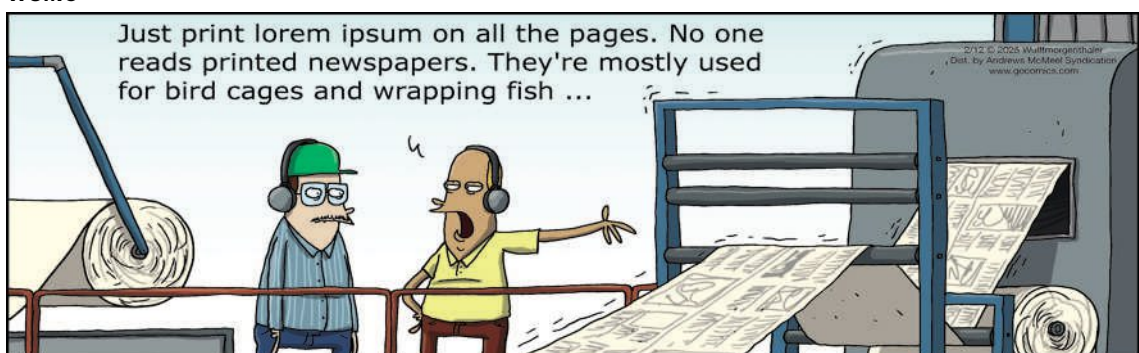
FRANK AND ERNEST

TOM THAVES



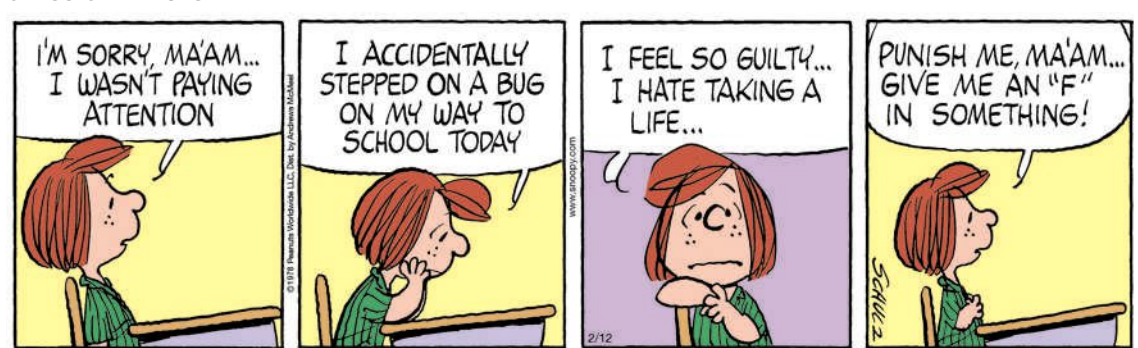
WUMO

MIKAEL WULFF & ANDERS MORGENTHALER



CLASSIC PEANUTS

CHARLES SCHULZ



CRABGRASS

TAUHID BONDIA



RHYMES WITH ORANGE

HILARY PRICE



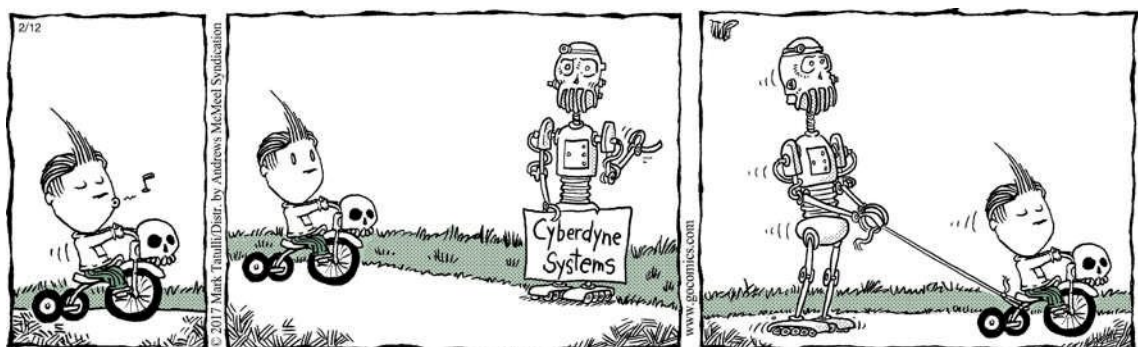
MARK TRAIL

JULES RIVERA



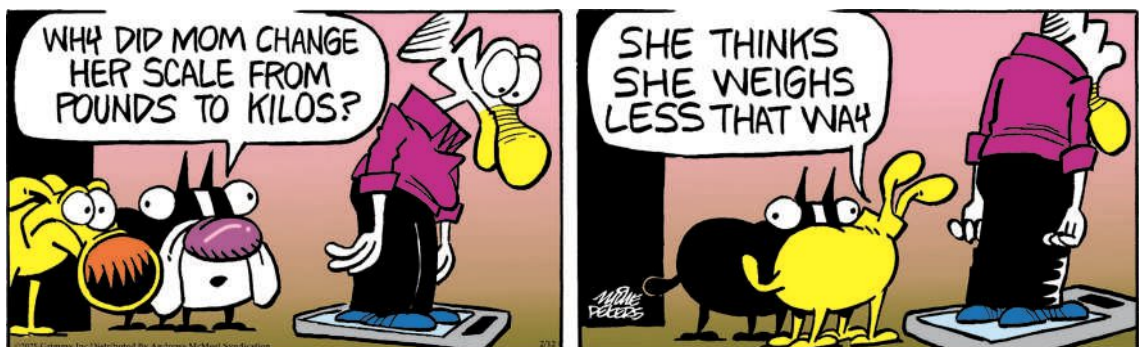
LIO

MARK TATULLI



MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

MIKE PETERS



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE

CHRIS BROWNE



BALDO

HECTOR CANTU & CARLOS CASTELLANOS



BLONDIE

DEAN YOUNG & JOHN MARSHALL



SALLY FORTH

FRANCESCO MARCIULIANO & JIM KEEFE



BREWSTER ROCKIT: SPACE GUY!

TIM RICKARD



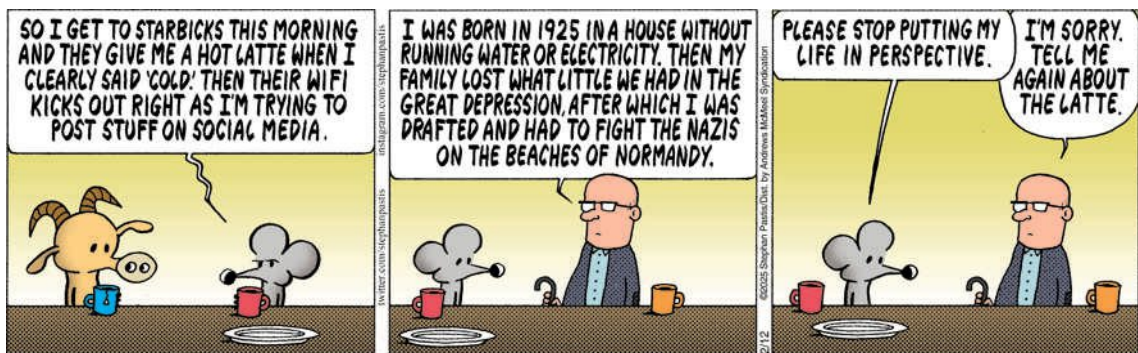
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

JIM TOOMEY



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE

STEPHAN PASTIS



CURTIS

RAY BILLINGSLEY



MUTTS

PATRICK McDONNELL

ZITS

JERRY SCOTT & JIM BORGMAN

HEART OF THE CITY

STEENZ

JUDGE PARKER

FRANCESCO MARCIULIANO & MIKE MANLEY

FRAZZ

JEFF MALLETT

SIX CHIX

BANNERMAN, XUNISE, KONAR, LAWTON, PATRINOS & PIRO

GARFIELD

JIM DAVIS

BARNEY AND CLYDE

WEINGARTENS & CLARK

DUSTIN

STEVE KELLEY & JEFF PARKER

FLASH GORDON

DAN SCHKADE

PRICKLY CITY

SCOTT STANTIS

LOOSE PARTS

DAVE BLAZEK

NON SEQUITUR

WILEY

BABY BLUES

RICK KIRKMAN & JERRY SCOTT

BIG NATE

LINCOLN PEIRCE

ON THE FASTRACK

BILL HOLBROOK

SPEED BUMP

DAVE COVERLY

DENNIS THE MENACE

H. KETCHAM

BEEBLE BAILEY

GREG, BRIAN & NEAL WALKER

FAMILY CIRCUS

BIL KEANE

REPLY ALL LITE

DONNA A. LEWIS

SOCCER

Manchester City is on the brink of Champions League elimination again after crumbling vs. Real Madrid. **D2**

SOCCER

U.S. Coach Emma Hayes is bringing a relatively young squad to the team's first competition of the year. **D3**

PRO FOOTBALL

Kellen Moore, the offensive coordinator of the Super Bowl champion Eagles, agrees to coach the Saints. **D3**

As offseason begins, here are six big predictions

On the NFL

JASON LA CANFORA

The Kansas City Chiefs and Philadelphia Eagles did not reach the Super Bowl by being reactive or complacent. And as the NFL's waiver period reopens and the offseason kicks off in earnest, expect both teams to be aggressive in their attempts to reach that pinnacle again.

The overall quality of this free agent class is underwhelming, and it's unlikely we will see nearly as many blockbuster trades as in recent years. Already, some executives are whispering about where they believe the leading free agents might be headed. The upcoming months should be particularly telling for the franchises in desperate need of a quarterback, with the options there rather bleak. And particular attention will be focused on the AFC North, where Cincinnati Bengals quarterback Joe Burrow has ramped up a PR campaign to try to cajole ownership into keeping top talent — I warned you that was coming — and where disgruntled Cleveland Browns pass rusher Myles Garrett spent Super Bowl week making the case for why the team should trade him.

After taking the temperature of executives who tend to have a good feel for such matters, I have no shortage of prognostications for the upcoming league year. Here are six big things to watch for, plus a few other notes as the offseason gets underway.

Garrett is gone

The Browns are talking tough about keeping Garrett, but four executives I spoke with agreed he's gone. And several of them believe the Eagles will land him. Philadelphia is short on edge talent, and pairing Garrett with its defensive tackles would be massive. "They're going to have to trade him," one longtime NFL executive said of the Browns. "They can't win anything with Garrett, and he's not going to back down. He's made his money, and he's got them by the" — well, you know.

"It's going to be a win-win," said one AFC general manager, speaking on the condition of anonymity because he is not permitted to publicly discuss potential transactions involving other teams. "They're going to get two [first-round draft picks] for him, and he'll get to a winning team." That executive predicted that Browns GM Andrew Berry will trade Garrett to the Eagles and GM Howie Roseman, for

SEE ON THE NFL ON D3



PHOTOS BY GRAEME SLOAN FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

'I got to be great every day'

A state champion bound for Michigan State, Largo's Ward pursues one final milestone

BY MATT COHEN

It was supposed to be a surprise, but Tom Izzo ruined it.

Last month, the Michigan State coach called Largo senior Cam Ward to say that, if not for a game against Minnesota on Jan. 28, he had planned to come south and help celebrate the moment when Cam — a four-star prospect bound for East Lansing — made Maryland history.

But to Cam, the apologetic call from his future coach broke a barrier of intentional ignorance. To that point, he had no idea how many points he needed in his pursuit of Maryland's public school scoring record. He had just wanted to focus on basketball. But now Cam knew that, when he arrived at school Jan. 28, he was just 14 points from the milestone.

Or so everyone thought. Behind the scenes, there was some last-minute chaos.

When it comes to high school sports, Maryland's recordkeeping is spotty. The Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association, the state governing body, has a winter record book, but it does not include individual records for statistics ranging beyond a single game or back-to-back games. An official with the MPSSAA recently said in an email that



Largo's Cam Ward and South Lakes' Jordan Scott are two of the top players in the D.C. area. Next, they will be teammates at Michigan State.

if a record is not listed in the book, the MPSSAA doesn't have it.

In other words: There is no official way to track Maryland's all-time scoring leader. Any so-called record is just word of mouth.

On Jan. 28, just hours before what was supposed to be a celebratory game, Largo determined the number everyone had been working with was

wrong. Cam was actually more than 300 points away.

Nobody told Cam. He didn't want to know.

There's little the senior forward hasn't done. He has been the Maryland Gatorade player of the year. He has more than 2,000 points and 1,000 rebounds. He has a state title. He has

SEE WARD ON D4

Buckle up: Ovechkin, Capitals are unrelenting



Barry Svrluga

On the opening night of the NHL season, it might have been possible to envision a scenario in which the Washington Capitals reached the all-star break — which this year is for a made-up tournament among four nations — and Alex Ovechkin had a realistic chance of breaking Wayne Gretzky's NHL record for goals. It was less plausible, even with an offseason of significant roster turnover, to predict the Caps would reach the break with the league's best record.

But *both*? "I genuinely think that us being in the spot we are helps him," Coach Spencer Carbery said. "He's always like this," and Carbery held his hand level above his head to give an indication of Ovechkin's relentlessly high intensity.

"But it also gives him — when we're in the spot we are, when teams are gunning for us, when every game is really, really competitive and we're fighting for points and we want to finish with the best record we possibly can — he's highly, highly motivated."

The marriage of these storylines is absolutely fascinating and borderline unfathomable. With 27 games to play, Ovechkin is 16 goals from passing Gretzky's NHL record of 894. At his 2024-25 rate of two goals in every three games — he has 26 goals in 39 games — he would break the record around April 10, at home against Carolina.

Put another way: Ovechkin has 16 goals — the total he needs to pass Gretzky — in his past 23 games. Duplicate that production over the next 23 games, and it yields the same prediction: No. 895 on April 10 against the Hurricanes.

Put still *another* way: This is getting real. And inescapable.

"This season has been the first season that it's just one of those

SEE SVRLUGA ON D2

Chasing Gretzky

Capitals captain Alex Ovechkin is nearing Wayne Gretzky's NHL career goals mark of 894.

GOALS FROM BREAKING THE RECORD

16

Capitals at Penguins
Feb. 22, 3 p.m., ABC

Could Flagg turn out to be Wizards' Wembanyama?



Candace Buckner

Your eyes just can't stop following Victor Wembanyama.

Even in Year 2, even after what he did during his spectacular rookie campaign, he's still a marvel to watch in person anytime he appears on an NBA court near you. Such as Monday night, when he was standing behind the Washington Wizards' Kyshawn George after a San Antonio Spurs teammate put up a shot. George might stand 6-foot-8, but his glorious curly mop top pushes him past 7 feet, and he was doing the fundamentally correct thing by placing his backside on the thin 7-3 center, attempting to box him out. Still, Wembanyama simply went over George's head, tapping the ball to himself with his left hand.

George had position, but Wemby had the reach.

There were other moments, from the silly (the time Wembanyama nearly destroyed one of the rims at Capital One

Arena but instead missed converting a lob dunk) to the sublime (the time he played Pop-A-Shot on the other rim, hitting three straight three-pointers). And every one demanded the attention of the 17,446 people in the stands, plenty of those paying customers wearing variations of Spurs jerseys that featured the No. 1 and Wembanyama's name on the back.

The Wizards fans inside the downtown D.C. arena — who watched Wembanyama finish with 31 points, 15 rebounds, four assists and three blocks while leading the Spurs to a 131-121 victory — might have seen a young superstar who dominated and delighted while in a rival jersey. But they also could have envisioned Washington's future — if the future is named Cooper Flagg.

Not too long ago, the Spurs were rebuilding. Then they got lucky, receiving the No. 1 draft

SEE BUCKNER ON D5

Pacers at Wizards

7 p.m., Monumental Sports Network



MARK J. TERRILL/ASSOCIATED PRESS

In his first game as a Laker, Luka Doncic finished with 14 points in 24 minutes Monday night and paired well with LeBron James.

With their new star duo, Lakers are flying high

In first game together, Doncic and James already show chemistry

BY BEN GOLLIVER

LOS ANGELES — LeBron James and Luka Doncic represent different generations and different continents, drafted 15 years apart and hailing from hometowns in Ohio and Slovenia that are separated by more than 4,500 miles. During Doncic's seven-year NBA career, they have crossed paths only 14 times, twice in Christmas showcases but never in the playoffs. Even a novice observer would note their opposing flight patterns: It's news when Doncic dunks, just as it's news when James doesn't.

Despite these differences and distances, Doncic has long referred to James as his "idol," and James said last week that Doncic has been "my favorite player in the NBA for a while now." Suddenly, thanks to a stunning trade

that united them on the Los Angeles Lakers, the superstars have a chance to prove their mutual respect can serve as the foundation of a thrilling offense and a deep playoff run.

James pulled out all the stops to welcome Doncic to Los Angeles on Monday night, donning a yellow No. 77 T-shirt during pregame warmups and ceding the coveted final spot during player introductions so that his new sidekick could savor a lengthy standing ovation in his first game since the trade. Then, in a huddle moments before tip-off, James relayed a simple instruction: "Luka, be your f---ing self. Don't fit in."

Together, they bolted out of the gates and led the Lakers to a 132-113 thumping of the Utah Jazz at Crypto.com Arena. Within the game's first minute, James and Doncic had each found Lakers center Jaxson Hayes with an alley-oop pass. The carnival continued with James and Doncic taking turns drilling turnaround jumpers and launching fast breaks.

SEE LAKERS ON D4

THE DAY IN SPORTS

SOCCER

Hermoso consented to kiss, Rubiales testifies

Luis Rubiales testified in court Tuesday that Spain forward **Jenni Hermoso** gave him permission to kiss her after her team's victory in the 2023 women's World Cup final in Sydney.

Rubiales, the former president of Spain's soccer federation, is standing trial before Spain's National Court in Madrid accused of sexual assault and trying to coerce Hermoso into publicly saying the kiss was consensual and "completely spontaneous."

"I asked her if I could give her a little kiss, and she said, 'Okay,'" Rubiales said.

Hermoso disagreed, telling the court last week that she had not consented and that the kiss, which quickly overshadowed Spain's victory, was unwanted. Prosecutors are seeking a 2½-year jail term.

—Cindy Boren

Sam Kerr, one of the top players in women's soccer, was found not guilty of racially aggravated harassment of a police officer.

Kerr, a striker for Australia and for English club Chelsea, accepted that she called a constable "stupid and White" during a heated exchange at a police station after a night out in London in January 2023 but denied that it amounted to the charge.

TENNIS

Sabalenka, Gauff upset early at the Qatar Open

Top seed **Aryna Sabalenka** and No. 3 seed **Coco Gauff** were upset in the second round of the Qatar Open in Doha.

Russia's **Ekaterina Alexandrova** came from behind to stun Sabalenka, 3-6, 6-3, 7-6 (7-5), while **Marta Kostyuk** of Ukraine capitalized on 39 unforced errors to oust Gauff, 6-2, 7-5. ...

The U.S. Open is moving its mixed doubles championship to the week before singles play begins, hoping a revamped format and \$1 million prize will persuade top players to chase a Grand Slam doubles title.

This year's event will feature 16 teams competing over two days in shorter matches.

BASEBALL

Hernández signs deal to stay with Dodgers

Kiké Hernández and the Los Angeles Dodgers finalized a one-year, \$6.5 million contract that keeps the versatile infielder-outfielder with the World Series champions.

The 33-year-old is entering his third straight season with the Dodgers and ninth overall. He hit .229 with 12 homers and 42 RBI in 126 games last season and batted .294 with two homers and six RBI in 14 postseason games.

Also, **Clayton Kershaw** was on the field with the Dodgers at spring training in Glendale, Arizona, in another sign the three-time Cy Young Award winner is returning for his 18th season with the franchise.

The team hasn't announced a contract with the 36-year-old. ...

The Minnesota Twins and free agent first baseman **Ty France** agreed to a one-year contract, a person with knowledge of the deal told the Associated Press, adding the 2022 all-star to the mix at an unsettled position. ...



MAHMUD HAMS/AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE/GETTY IMAGES

Eye off the ball

Coco Gauff serves to Marta Kostyuk in the second round of the Qatar Open on Tuesday in Doha. Kostyuk upset Gauff, 6-2, 7-5.

SPOTLIGHT: CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Collapse puts Man. City on brink of early exit

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jude Bellingham struck in stoppage time to give Real Madrid a 3-2 victory on the road in the first leg of its Champions League playoff against Manchester City on Tuesday.

Bellingham sealed a stunning comeback for defending champion Madrid at the Etihad Stadium after City had led 2-1 late.

Former City academy player Brahim Díaz leveled the game at 2 in the 86th minute before Bellingham's winner silenced the home crowd.

City looked like taking a lead into the second leg at the Bernabéu next week after two goals from Erling Haaland.

His 80th-minute penalty kick gave City the edge after Kylian Mbappé can-

REAL MADRID 3, MANCHESTER CITY 2

Bellingham goal completes champs' late comeback

celed out the Norwegian's first-half goal after the break.

Elsewhere, Paris Saint-Germain took a big step toward the round of 16 by beating fellow French club Brest, 3-0, on the road.

Ousmane Dembélé scored twice and Vitinha converted a penalty to put the French champion in control. It would take a major upset in the second leg in Paris to deny PSG a place in the next round.

Qatar-backed PSG is one of the wealthiest clubs in the world, but it was in danger of early elimination before securing the lifeline of a playoff by finishing 15th in the 36-team league.

In Turin, Italy, Juventus earned a hard-fought 2-1 win over Dutch side PSV Eindhoven, with substitute Samuel Mbangula grabbing the winner in the 82nd minute.

Juventus was getting frustrated by PSV's gritty defending when Weston McKennie broke the deadlock in style in the 34th minute.

The U.S. midfielder hit a blistering shot into the top right corner from just inside the penalty area.

German power Borussia Dortmund also looks on course for the next round after a 3-0 win at Sporting Lisbon.

TELEVISION AND RADIO

NBA

7 p.m. **Indiana at Washington** » Monumental Sports Network, WTEM (980 AM)
7 p.m. **San Antonio at Boston** » ESPN
9:30 p.m. **Golden State at Dallas** » ESPN

PROFESSIONAL HOCKEY — 4 NATIONS FACE-OFF

8 p.m. **Sweden at Canada** » TNT

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

6 p.m. **St. John's at Villanova** » Fox Sports 1
6:30 p.m. **Iowa at Rutgers** » Big Ten Network
7 p.m. **Stanford at Georgia Tech** » ACC Network
7 p.m. **Florida State at Wake Forest** » ESPNU
7 p.m. **Louisville at North Carolina State** » ESPN2
7 p.m. **Mississippi at South Carolina** » SEC Network
7 p.m. **Oklahoma State at TCU** » CBS Sports Network
8:30 p.m. **Washington at Ohio State** » Big Ten Network
9 p.m. **California at Duke** » ACC Network
9 p.m. **Notre Dame at Boston College** » ESPNU
9 p.m. **LSU at Arkansas** » ESPN2
9 p.m. **Oklahoma at Missouri** » SEC Network
9 p.m. **Arizona State at Texas Tech** » CBS Sports Network
10 p.m. **Wyoming at New Mexico** » Fox Sports 1

AUTO RACING

10 a.m. **NASCAR Cup Series: Daytona 500, practice** » Fox Sports 1
8 p.m. **NASCAR Cup Series: Daytona 500, qualifying** » Fox Sports 1

SOCCER

2:30 p.m. **English Premier League: Liverpool at Everton** » USA Network
4 p.m. **Concacaf under-17 championship qualifier: Grenada vs. Dominican Republic** » Fox Sports 2
7:30 p.m. **Copa Libertadores first round, second leg: Nacional Asunción at Alianza Lima** » BeIN Sports
8 p.m. **Concacaf Champions Cup first round, second leg: Cibao at Guadalajara** » Fox Sports 2
10 p.m. **Concacaf Champions Cup first round, second leg: Real Esteli at Tigres UANL** » Fox Sports 2

TENNIS

6 a.m. **ATP: Delray Beach Open, Open 13 Provence and Argentina Open, early rounds; WTA: Qatar Open, early rounds** » Tennis Channel

Center fielder **Michael A. Taylor** and the Chicago White Sox agreed to a one-year, \$1.95 million contract, a person familiar with the deal told the AP. ...

Veteran outfielder **Jason Heyward** and the San Diego Padres finalized a one-year, \$1 million contract.

PRO BASKETBALL

Raptors give Ingram \$120 million extension

Brandon Ingram got a \$120 million extension from the Raptors before ever playing a game for Toronto.

The Raptors sent **Bruce Brown**, **Kelly Olynyk**, a 2026 first-round pick and a 2031 second-round pick to the New Orleans Pelicans for Ingram on Thursday. ...

The Los Angeles Lakers signed free agent center **Alex Len** to bolster their frontcourt depth.

Len was traded from Sacramento to Washington last week as part of the multi-team deal sending **Marcus Smart** to the Wizards. Washington subsequently waived Len. ...

Dallas Mavericks center **Daniel Gafford** will miss at least two weeks after spraining his right knee in a loss to Sacramento on Monday. ...

Karl-Anthony Towns had 40 points as the New York Knicks beat the Indiana Pacers, 128-115, in Indianapolis.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

No. 7 Boilermakers fall on road to Wolverines

Daniel Wolf had 15 points and the No. 20 Michigan men rallied to defeat No. 7 Purdue, 75-73, in Ann Arbor, Michigan. ...

Ansley Almonor and **Otega Oweh** scored 13 points each as No. 15 Kentucky beat No. 5 Tennessee, 75-64, at home. ...

Denver Jones scored 21 points and No. 1 Auburn held off Vanderbilt, 80-68, in Nashville. ...

No. 3 Florida earned an 81-68 win at No. 22 Mississippi State. ...

In two area matchups that went to overtime, Loyola Chicago defeated host Richmond, 87-80, and George Mason triumphed, 76-74, at Saint Louis.

MISC.

Rugby player cut loose after biting teammate

Masivesi Dakuwaqa, a member of Fiji's gold medal-winning rugby team at the 2016 Olympics, was dropped from second-tier French club Biarritz Olympique after he bit his teammate during a night out.

Biarritz players gathered last month for a team party at a restaurant in southern France when Dakuwaqa reportedly became angry after teammates advised him not to drive home. The 30-year-old allegedly smashed a car window, spurring teammate **Pierre Pagès** to try to talk to him, at which point Dakuwaqa bit Pagès, whose face was so bloodied it required 20 stitches.

—Glynn A. Hill

Former U.S. surgeon general **Vivek H. Murthy** will return to the board of directors at the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee. ...

Roger Penske named Indianapolis Motor Speedway President **Doug Boles** to the same position at IndyCar, replacing **Jay Frye**.

—From news services and staff reports

BARRY SVRLUGA

Ovechkin and his Capitals intently pursue their goals

SVRLUGA FROM D1

things that you can't escape," said defenseman John Carlson, Ovechkin's longest-tenured teammate. "It's no matter where you go, no matter what you do, no matter who you talk to, it's there. Even last year, I think we'd all have the same feeling that there's a really good chance it would happen. But he wasn't going to do it last year. Now, it's kind of cool where every single goal is like a mini celebration."

Those celebrations have extra meaning because of the Capitals' position in the standings — and projections for the future. I'll admit something: Last season, as the Caps struggled to score goals and to reach the playoffs, I figured this whole pursuit-of-Gretzky thing might be a slog. Ovechkin was an aging player on a mediocre team. He had scored

his fewest goals in any season not shortened by a pandemic.

Amassing the 42 goals he needed after 2023-24 seemed possible over *two* seasons. Not one.

Yet here we are. And consider the following.

"I genuinely feel this way: I think his best hockey is [still] to come in this season," Carbery said. "... I think he's going to look even better coming out of the break. That's just my own personal opinion."

It's an informed one. The reason: Carbery believes Ovechkin is still working himself back into top form after he missed 16 games because of a broken bone in his left leg.

Ovechkin isn't being dragged — or dragging himself — to this record. He's sprinting through the tape with a supporting cast that is helping the cause. In the season Hank Aaron passed Babe



JOHN MCDONNELL FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Alex Ovechkin's goal-scoring renaissance this season has coincided with the Capitals' unlikely battle for the best record in the NHL.

Ruth to become baseball's home run king, he hit fewer homers than he had in any campaign since he was a rookie. The season Barry Bonds hit the homer that pushed him past Aaron was Bonds's last.

Ovechkin is 39, in his 20th season, and his pace over a full 82-game slate is for 55 goals — a total he has surpassed just twice in his career and not since he was 23.

No wonder this is all a topic of conversation.

"I think if you ask most guys, we're thinking about it pretty much every day, every game," linemate Tom Wilson said. "It's just everywhere you look and everywhere you go. It's just a crazy buzz around him right now. As a group, you feel it. And as a group, you want to do everything you can just to help him."

About that: Ovechkin's goal-

scoring isn't just helping him climb closer to Gretzky. It's helping the Capitals be the best team they can be, which turns out to be in the conversation as the best team in the league. This isn't just a team trying to qualify for the postseason. This is a team that wants to do damage once there — with a brilliantly assembled roster and a growing self-belief.

"It's been long enough into the season now that we believe this is who we are for sure — end of story," Carlson said. "I think confidence is earned, and I think we've earned that confidence in a lot of ways as a team."

They have earned it because their longest losing streak is two games. They have earned it because they have a points percentage of .727, a tick better than Winnipeg's .723 as the NHL's standard. (The Jets have 81 points to Washington's 80 but have played one more game.) They have earned it because, while they have five losses in three-on-three overtime and three more in shootouts, those formats go out the window in the playoffs.

And they have earned it

CAPITALS' NEXT THREE		
at Pittsburgh Penguins		
Feb. 22	3	ABC
vs. Edmonton Oilers		
Feb. 23	1	TNT
vs. Calgary Flames		
Feb. 25	7	Monumental

Radio: *WJFK (106.7 FM), WFED (1500 AM)*

because their captain continues to score at a rate that makes Gretzky more attainable and keeps the Capitals atop the standings.

Springtime in Washington with a hockey team that matters is a lot more interesting than springtime with an also-ran. The spring that's ahead offers an unprecedented bonus: a run at one of sports' most hallowed records by a player leading a team on a push for — gulp — another championship. That those two stories are skipping hand-in-hand toward the horizon is nothing but a delight.

There’s no ‘Triple Espresso’ on U.S. roster — just a twist

With top players out, Hayes turns to youth for SheBelieves Cup

BY STEVEN GOFF

There are famous names, unfamiliar names and updated names through marriage on the U.S. women’s national soccer team roster for the 10th annual SheBelieves Cup, which begins next week. But for the second consecutive set of high-end matches, there are also conspicuously absent names.

The spectacular “Triple Espresso” front line of Trinity Rodman, Mallory Swanson and Sophia Wilson (née Smith) will miss the four-nation tournament, just as the three were sidelined for the England and Netherlands friendlies late last year, the U.S. Soccer Federation said Tuesday.

Rodman, the Washington Spirit star, continues to regain fitness as part of her rehabilitation of a back injury, the USSF said. Swanson — who scored the Olympic gold medal game-winner against Brazil last summer in Paris — is unavailable because of personal commitments, and Wilson is not physically ready for international competition, according to the federation.

Midfielder Rose Lavelle (ankle injury) and center back Naomi Girma (calf) also will miss the matches against Colombia on Feb. 20 in Houston; Australia on Feb. 23 in Glendale, Arizona; and Japan on Feb. 26 in San Diego.

As much as she would like them in camp, Coach Emma Hayes sees a silver lining at a time when there are no major competitions on the horizon.

“What an opportunity for everyone else to develop as a result of that,” Hayes said. “I’d rather take these learnings now than I would, say, six months in the lead-up to a major tournament. ... It’s



JOHN MCDONNELL FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Lindsey Heaps (née Horan) is among the national team veterans Coach Emma Hayes will have on hand for the SheBelieves Cup this month.

up to them to impress. It’s up to them to put themselves in a position.”

Hayes said her message to the team is this: “You have to make it so difficult for me every month. You have to make it impossible for me to put together a roster. When you come into these situations, you have to grab it with both hands.”

The average age on the 23-player SheBelieves Cup roster is 25, and the average number of appearances is 33, though 10 players have four or fewer.

Spirit defender Tara McKeown; Kansas City Current teammates Claire Hutton, 19, and Michelle Cooper, 22; and Angel City FC defender Gisele Thompson, 19, are seeking to make their debut. Thompson will arrive with 20-year-old sister Alyssa, marking the third set of siblings invited to the same camp in program history.

Hutton, Cooper and Thompson attended the Futures Camp for young players last month in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and performed well enough for a senior

call-up. “This is the time to do it,” Hayes said. “That’s what this year is about.”

Hayes has been particularly impressed with Hutton, a defensive midfielder entering her second NWSL season. Hutton “could have a big future for the national team,” Hayes said. “Where she is in relation to, say, someone like [Olympic starter] Sam Coffey, I don’t know that yet, but I definitely want the opportunity to have a look.”

Jane Campbell (eight appearances) and Mandy McGlynn (one

are the only goalkeepers on the squad. Casey Murphy (20 appearances) was not called up.

The roster features two prominent veterans competing for the first time since getting married this winter: captain Lindsey Heaps (née Horan) and forward Lynn Biyendolo (née Williams). Wilson also tied the knot this winter and, like most missing stars, seems likely to return for two home friendlies against Brazil in April.

Defenders Crystal Dunn, Emily Sonnett, Tierna Davidson and

U.S. roster

Goalkeepers: Jane Campbell (Houston Dash), Mandy McGlynn (Utah Royals)

Defenders: Tierna Davidson (Gotham FC), Crystal Dunn (Paris Saint-Germain), Emily Fox (Arsenal), Tara McKeown (Washington Spirit), Jenna Nighswonger (Arsenal), Emily Sams (Orlando Pride), Emily Sonnett (Gotham FC), Gisele Thompson (Angel City)

Midfielders: Korbin Albert (Paris Saint-Germain), Sam Coffey (Portland Thorns), Lindsey Heaps (Olympique Lyonnais), Claire Hutton (Kansas City Current), Jaedyn Shaw (North Carolina Courage), Lily Yohannes (Ajax Amsterdam)

Forwards: Lynn Biyendolo (Seattle Reign), Michelle Cooper (Kansas City), Catarina Macario (Chelsea), Yazmeen Ryan (Houston), Emma Sears (Racing Louisville), Ally Sentnor (Utah), Alyssa Thompson (Angel City)

Emily Fox also will provide experience.

Seven players are employed overseas, a number larger than usual for the U.S. player pool following Jenna Nighswonger and Crystal Dunn leaving Gotham FC for Arsenal and Paris Saint-Germain, respectively. Others already abroad are Heaps (Olympique Marseille), Fox (Arsenal), Korbin Albert (PSG), Catarina Macario (Chelsea) and Lily Yohannes (Ajax Amsterdam).

Macario, who missed the Olympics with knee irritation, has not played for the U.S. team since June. This season at Chelsea, she has posted five goals and two assists in 13 matches (five starts).

If not for her injury, Girma also would have been part of this camp’s foreign-based contingent. She recently left the San Diego Wave for Chelsea in the first million-dollar transfer in women’s soccer history.

ON THE NFL

What does offseason hold for Burrow and other QBs?

ON THE NFL FROM DI

whom he used to work. “If he does Howie a solid, maybe Howie will bring [Berry] back a year from now when [Browns owner Jimmy] Haslam fires everybody,” the GM said.

Burrow will be frustrated

Burrow has front-office officials around the league chattering about the lengths he is going to make the case for the Bengals keeping free agent wide receiver Tee Higgins and free agent tight end Mike Gesicki while also extending the deals of wideout Ja’Marr Chase and pass rusher Trey Hendrickson. “We have the cap space to get it done,” Burrow practically pleaded during his pre-Super Bowl media blitz. That, of course, doesn’t mean Bengals owner Mike Brown will spend big.

“Burrow is going to be pissed,” a second GM predicted. “No way they are keeping more than two of those four.” Multiple executives I spoke with predicted Higgins will land at least \$30 million per season. “I think he’s going to New England,” the first GM said. Patriots owner Robert Kraft “took a lot of s--- for not spending any money, rightfully so, and I hear they really want this guy.”

Chiefs will address their line

Expect top-guard-turned-top-left-tackle Joe Thuney to get a reworked contract after saving the Chiefs’ season by moving to the edge. Team brass expects to lose guard Trey Smith on the open market, from everything I gather — multiple executives pointed to Tennessee as a potential landing spot — but I doubt Kansas City stands pat. That front office traded for former Baltimore starting tackle Orlando Brown Jr. a few years back, and Ravens left tackle Ronnie Stanley is coming off his best and healthiest season in years. Given his lengthy injury history, he could be a perfect fit as a stopgap in Kansas City.

“Doesn’t that just seem like what Andy Reid would do to fix his biggest need?” the first GM said. Predicted the second GM: “I think they get Stanley or [Minnesota Vikings tackle Cam] Robinson.”

Tag, Darnold is it

Sam Darnold’s brutal play in Week 18 and the playoffs had many writing him off in Minnesota. Not so fast. Several executives from quarterback-needy teams, who would have at least some interest in Darnold,



JEFF BOTTARI/GETTY IMAGES

Multiple executives said they expect the Browns to trade disgruntled star Myles Garrett this offseason.

suggested he’s not going anywhere. I hear that J.J. McCarthy, who lost his entire rookie year to injury, still has significant work to do to rebuild his body, let alone adjust to the NFL. “They have to tag Darnold,” the first GM said. “Those guys aren’t stupid.”

An agent for another free agent signal caller said: “Darnold will get the transition tag. It just makes too much sense. ... Owners don’t like to sign guys to offer sheets, and if they do, Minnesota can string it out for five days deciding to match, and what if the other quarterbacks are gone by the time they decide? Can you really take that risk in March?”

Cousins holds the cards

Makes no mistake: Kirk Cousins will not be back in Atlanta next season. It will be one and done there for him after he signed that four-year, \$180 million deal a year ago. However, as much as the Falcons would love to get this over with to limit any drama around quarterback Michael Penix Jr., Cousins has a no-trade clause and is in no rush for a resolution, coming off an injury-marred season. (His salary is set either way.) Any deal probably would require at least some contract gymnastics. This resolution will be on his terms, and after being paired with a rookie play caller in Atlanta who used him in some odd ways, bank on Cousins landing with a proven offensive coordinator.

If the Los Angeles Rams move off Matthew Stafford — via his retirement or a trade — that

would be an obvious fit schematically and otherwise. Coach Sean McVay was with Washington when Cousins was drafted.

Mack’s going back?

This is a weak free agent class. Los Angeles Chargers pass rusher Khalil Mack is one of the few headliners, and he is poised to fare quite well in this market despite his advancing age. Crazy as it might sound, don’t rule out a return to Chicago for the soon-to-be 34-year old. The Bears gave up serious draft capital to land him from Oakland in 2018; they later dealt him to the Chargers for far less. But this league can move in mysterious ways. Chicago wants pass rush help, has money to spend and is under pressure to win with quarterback Caleb Williams on his rookie deal. Look for the Chargers to move on from always-injured pass rusher Joey Bosa as well.

Wide receiver rumblings

I continue to hear the San Francisco 49ers will end up trading Deebo Samuel, concluding a saga that has been going on for more than a year as they engaged in varying levels of trade talks. ...

Both general managers I spoke with said they heard the Rams will eat at least \$5 million of Cooper Kupp’s salary to facilitate a trade. While teams still have interest in the oft-injured playmaker, the GMs wondered whether that will be enough to move him, given the terms of his brutal three-year, \$80 million contract. ...

Seattle trading one of its wideouts also wouldn’t surprise the executives with whom I spoke.

Quarterback chatter

The New Orleans Saints, who are in about as horrendous of a salary cap situation as imaginable, are letting those who inquire know they would be willing to play this season with Spencer Rattler if someone wants to take Derek Carr off their hands. He also has a terrible contract, and nothing the Saints do this offseason will be easy. ...

Book at least three quarterbacks to be taken in the first round of the draft. There is just too much demand and not enough supply. I told you a year ago that Colorado’s Shedeur Sanders would be a top selection, and Miami’s Cam Ward will join him near the top of the first round. After Senior Bowl week, add another: Mississippi’s Jaxson Dart “is going in the first round,” the first GM said. “There’s going to be three. I guarantee you.” Another executive said: “I’m hearing the same thing as everyone else in Mobile [for the Senior Bowl]. I wouldn’t take Dart that high, but he’s going on the first night.” ...

After he spent years in the abyss, I’m hearing some positive reviews of Jimmy Garoppolo’s limited recent film. In this modest market, I bet he does okay. He has spent time in the systems of Kyle Shanahan and McVay that teams keep trying to mimic by hiring their assistants as head coaches. Garoppolo already has those systems down.

NFL NOTES

As expected, Saints hire Eagles’ Moore as coach

FROM NEWS SERVICES AND STAFF REPORTS

The New Orleans Saints waited until after the Super Bowl to hire their coach, and the performance of Kellen Moore’s offense in the Philadelphia Eagles’ triumph Sunday made their patience appear justified.

The Saints reached an agreement Tuesday to hire Moore as their coach, the team announced. The deal completed the NFL’s hiring cycle. Moore had been the offensive coordinator of the Eagles, who secured their second Super Bowl victory in the past eight seasons with their 40-22 win over the Kansas City Chiefs at the Superdome in New Orleans.

“I look forward to embracing the challenges ahead and am eager to get started,” Moore said in a statement released by the Saints. “I would also like to thank the Philadelphia Eagles for an incredible 2024 season. I’m excited to begin this new chapter.”

Under NFL rules, the Saints could not hire Moore until the Eagles’ season was done. Their willingness to wait made it evident that Moore was their choice, and they moved quickly in the aftermath of Sunday’s game to complete the process.

“Through the search process, it became clear that Kellen is the right person to help us reestablish a winning program and culture that our fans are accustomed to and have come to expect,” Saints owner Gayle Benson said in a statement.

Moore spent one season with the Eagles following stints as the offensive coordinator of the Dallas Cowboys and Los Angeles Chargers. He is a former NFL quarterback who once was regarded as a contender for the Cowboys’ coaching job. But owner Jerry Jones, after parting with Mike McCarthy, instead promoted the team’s offensive coordinator, Brian Schottenheimer.

In New Orleans, Moore succeeds Dennis Allen, who was fired nine games into the Saints’ season. Darren Rizzi completed the season as the team’s interim coach, and the Saints finished 5-12.

They have not reached the playoffs since the 2020 season. Sean Payton, their Super Bowl-winning former coach, stepped down following the 2021 season and, after a season out of coaching, returned to the NFL as the Denver Broncos’ coach for the past two seasons. The Saints could be \$60 million or more above next season’s project-

ed salary cap. Quarterback Derek Carr is under contract for two more seasons, but it’s not certain he will be retained.

— Mark Maske

• **JAGUARS:** Team president Mark Lamping signed an extension that puts him under contract through the 2030 season.

Owner Shad Khan announced the move, essentially guaranteeing Lamping will run the business side of the franchise beyond the completion of Jacksonville’s \$1.4 billion stadium renovation. Lamping played a key role in getting the overhaul approved.

• **MISC.:** Despite the game being a blowout, Sunday night’s Super Bowl averaged a record 127.7 million U.S. viewers across television and streaming platforms for Philadelphia’s victory over Kansas City.

The game was televised by Fox, Fox Deportes and Telemundo and streamed on Tubi as well as the NFL’s digital platforms.

Not only is it a 3 percent increase from last year, it is the second straight year the Super Bowl has reached a record audience. The Chiefs’ 25-22 overtime victory over the San Francisco 49ers in 2024 averaged 123.7 million viewers on CBS, Nickelodeon, Univision and streaming platforms.

According to Nielsen, Sunday’s audience peaked at 137.7 million in the second quarter.

Some of the increase can be attributed to a change in the way viewers are counted. This is the first year Nielsen measured out-of-home viewers for all states but Hawaii and Alaska. It was previously the top 44 media markets, which covered 65 percent of the country.

The ratings also include Nielsen data from smart TVs along with cable and satellite set-top boxes. ...

Philadelphia officials are expecting a huge turnout of fans in the city Friday for a parade honoring the Eagles after their Super Bowl win.

The team plans to descend the Rocky steps of the Philadelphia Museum of Art at around 2 p.m. for a 75-minute ceremony, city leaders said at a news conference.

A replay of the team’s victory over the Chiefs will be shown on large screens nearby. The parade will start at 11 a.m. near the South Philadelphia stadium, proceed up Broad Street to City Hall and then go west onto the Benjamin Franklin Parkway to the art museum.

— Associated Press

Largo’s Ward is chasing a major Maryland milestone

WARD FROM D1

cemented himself as a basketball legend at Largo.

His high school accomplishments rival those of many of the D.C.-area basketball heroes he looked up to as a kid.

But the Maryland record? He would have to break that another day.

A Lion for life

Rodney Ward and Ayana Ball met at Largo in 2004. Rodney Ward had spent several years on the boys’ basketball coaching staff. Ayana Ball-Ward was just starting with the girls’ team. They got married.

Neither has left the Prince George’s County school. Rodney is the boys’ varsity coach. In addition to coaching the girls’ team, Ayana is the athletic director.

Their chosen careers and their shared love of Largo meant the first weeks of Cam’s life were spent on the Lions’ home court.

Some of the family’s earliest memories are of Cam playing off to the side at back-to-back practices with their teams. Some days, he played basketball. Others, he might be found walking around the gym with a volleyball or a hockey stick and plastic puck.

Eventually, Cam got involved. He jumped into drills with the teams, cleaned the floors with the managers or sat working the scoreboard clock. Ayana remembers Cam taking off his shoes to put on the much larger basketball shoes players had left lying around.

“His best strength was comfortability in the gym, even as a baby,” Rodney said. “The whistles and horns and all the noise of the crowds, it never really got to him. ... He was born October 30, and the season started November 15. So at two weeks old, he was in the gym.”

As Cam got older, he moved up the AAU ranks and became a middle school star. At that time, Rodney had stepped away from coaching the Lions. In 2016, he came back as the interim coach before getting the job full time again.

He knew his son was on the way.

Staying home

Like any young basketball player, Cam dreamed of playing in the NBA. When he was around 10 years old and began starring for high-powered AAU program Team Durant, that dream started to feel more like a goal. He idolized other locals who made it to the NBA — including his team’s namesake, Kevin Durant.

Now he is a four-star prospect, ranked the No. 49 senior in the country by 247Sports. He signed with Michigan State in the fall, choosing Izzo’s Spartans over Maryland, Kansas State and Virginia.

“I’m halfway there,” Cam said. “You just got to keep being consistent, and then you’ll fully get there.”

The first major crossroads in Cam’s basketball journey arrived in eighth grade, when it came time to choose a high school.

The romanticism of playing for your local public school is nearly extinct in the D.C. area, where private school programs reign. Players looking for college interest often defect from their home school to a nationally celebrated program such as DeMatha, Gonzaga or Paul VI. According to Max-Preps, three of the top 20 high school teams in the nation are in the D.C. area. All are private schools.

Cam had options coming out of middle school, including interest from Gonzaga and Paul VI. But he thought about the hours he already had spent at Largo. He thought about playing for his dad and having both of his parents in



GRAEME SLOAN FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Largo’s Cam Ward faced off against South Lakes’ Jordan Scott at last month’s Capitol Hoops Challenge.

the building. He thought he could restore some of the excitement he remembered as a kid going to his parents’ games.

Rodney said Cam has never been too vocal about the importance of playing at a public school. But in the back of Cam’s mind, there always has been a point to prove. So he picked Largo.

“He said: ‘I grew up in this gym. I grew up in this community. I think I just want to build it back up and make it what it used to be when I used to come to y’all’s games,’” Ayana said.

But that temptation never went away. Even last season, after the Lions won the Maryland Class 2A championship, private schools from far and wide called to ask whether he would join them for one season. Again, Cam stayed.

“I’ve been here for three years,” he said. “Why all of a sudden go against the principles that you set in place to come here in the first place? I don’t have to be here. That’s something that was a choice.”

By his senior year, Cam was one of the most well-known and respected players in the area. In January, he played a game that served as additional validation of his decision to stick with the Lions. In the marquee matchup of the Capitol Hoops Challenge — a multiday showcase at DeMatha — Cam’s Largo faced South Lakes and senior forward Jordan Scott. As two of the top seniors in the area, their paths are inextricably linked. The pair met as kids and played against each other throughout their youth careers. Next fall, they’ll be teammates at Michigan State.

The game was a celebration of public school basketball, played in the middle of a talent-packed slate featuring top private school teams. Largo won, 65-64, and Cam scored 25 points in front of the biggest crowd of the weekend.

“I can genuinely say I’m leaving this program in better hands than I found it,” he said.

Asking a lot

Just four days after beating South Lakes and hardly 24 hours after earning a gritty win against Douglass, Cam needed help heating up the cup of ramen he had grabbed from the closet in his dad’s classroom.

Largo had just finished a light practice and film session. The night before, the Lions’ gym was brimming and boisterous as the home team hosted an 8-1 Douglass squad.

“We’re still everybody’s Super Bowl,” Rodney told his team at the start of practice.

There is a target on all of their backs — but especially Cam’s. Not only is he an elite prospect, but he is a state champion. So he approaches every practice drill as competitively as if it were a game, racing to make 10 midrange jump shots before anyone else.

“I can’t be basic,” Cam said. “I got to be great every day because people are looking for that.”

Cam never exactly asked to be a star. But, willing or not, he earned this. That meant learning how to be a leader.

He is asked to be mature beyond his high school years. After most games this season, he is required to do more. Sign autographs for a group of excited kids. Record another video interview. Pose for another photo. Most of the time, after spending all of his energy on the court, he just wants to go see his mom.

“You can’t really do what everybody else does,” Cam said. “You think [you are] just the calm, basic guy, but people see you as a superstar, someone that’s very special, that’s going to do things in life. You have to carry it that way always.”

In the modern basketball landscape, fame is followed by money. Cam has his own name, image and likeness deals now, with supporters able to buy T-shirts and sweat-shirts with his image.

Stardom changes some things but not all. It doesn’t help Cam make his bowl of ramen, and it doesn’t stop him from having to wander the halls, looking for a fork. On his search, he walks by the Maryland Class 2A championship trophy that sits by the door.

“I don’t think he puts any pressure on himself,” Ayana said. “To me, he’s still the same guy that walks around my house, eating all the food.”

A moving target

An hour before the game against Gwynn Park on Jan. 28, Cam sat in the bleachers of his home gym behind Ayana and the

Largo girls’ team. No one told him this would not be a record-breaking night, that he had more work to do. He didn’t want to hear that, anyway. Whenever he reached that milestone, he would find out in real time.

When he came out of the locker room after an 83-55 win — his first regular season victory over Gwynn Park — Cam said he had just been told about the mix-up. He admitted he was surprised when there had been no celebration after any of the 31 points he scored.

Until that week, the record was believed to have been the 2,281 points scored by Oakdale’s Zach Thomas. Largo had been using that number to track Cam’s countdown for about a year.

But Jan. 27, a local media member raised concerns about the validity of the record, pointing to an old clip from the Middletown Press that said Albert Mouring of Colonel Richardson scored 2,513 points. Later, a 1992 Washington Post article was discovered that claimed Mike Roberts of Pocomoke had reached 2,497. He is believed to have finished his career with 2,611 points.

Rodney heard about all of this hours after Largo’s Jan. 27 win over Surrattsville. As he researched the updated records, Ayana said, she sent about “800 emails and text messages,” reorganizing the celebratory events that had been planned. She said she reached out to state committee members, supervisors, friends and family. Someone had to tell Izzo.

“It was definitely a shock,” Ayana said. “But then it was like, ‘All right, so can he still realistically do it?’”

That answer is probably. With three games left in Largo’s regular season, Cam is just shy of 2,500 points. Should he maintain his current scoring pace, Cam is likely to break the record early in the postseason.

After beating Gwynn Park and being told about the new record, Cam left Largo’s gym in a large group featuring his mom, some teammates and other staffers. They joked around as they made their way toward the parking lot. Cam still didn’t know how many more points he needed. He just knew there was basketball left to play.

he spent the game’s final 15 minutes smiling with his teammates on the bench because the Lakers led by as many as 34 points in the second half.

“I’ve always looked up to [Nowitzki],” Doncic said. “A great mentor. For him to fly all the way from Dallas, it was amazing. I really, really appreciated it. I saw the fans [in Dallas]. I really appreciate it. I’ve been there almost seven years, and it’s amazing to experience those fans and the love for me. Now I think we should focus on the next step. The way the Lakers fans received me here was amazing.”

James finished with a team-high 24 points to go with seven rebounds and eight assists. The Lakers’ ball movement and spacing consistently flummoxed the Jazz, and all five Los Angeles starters scored in double figures. Hayes feasted on open looks at the rim, and Rui Hachimura and reserve Gabe Vincent enjoyed clean looks from three.

“I think it can be a thing of beauty,” Lakers guard Austin

HIGH SCHOOL NOTES

Carroll boys sprint past their own indoor mark

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Even for an Archbishop Carroll team that has maintained its spot at the top of the boys’ indoor 4x200-meter relay national leader board for the past three years, change is inevitable when the season ends.

The group of Lions who broke the national record last year at Adidas Indoor Nationals with a time of 1 minute 25.36 seconds was entirely different from the 2023 team that came just three hundredths of a second short.

This season, only junior Jake Odey-Jordan — last year’s 200-meter indoor national champion — returned to Carroll’s quartet.

The Lions haven’t lost a step. The new group has hit the ground running, lowering Carroll’s national record to 1:25.21 at the VA Showcase on Jan. 17 before bettering it again Saturday with a time of 1:25.15 at the Millrose Games in New York.

“It does take a lot of work, especially with a whole new group except for one,” Coach Rafiu Bakare said. “The group was strong, and we knew that if they jelled together — and they have been doing so since pre-season all the way into the early season — that they would be fast.”

Odey-Jordan has been key to the Lions’ success this season after a busy 2024. He broke out on the national scene as a sophomore before representing Britain’s youth teams over the summer, getting named to British Athletics’ Olympic Futures Programme in November and signing a name, image and likeness deal with New Balance in December.

Senior Niles Briggman, a transfer from Hayfield; senior Elijah Amenra, who boasts a U.S. No. 10 time in the 55-meter dash; and junior Keenen Davis round out a group that’s looking to make more history.

“We’re still getting faster and stronger,” Bakare said. “The goal — I know the group has spoken about it and I’ve spoken about it — is to see if we can drop that under 1:25. And I think we can.”

— Nicky Wolcott

Hockey

When Mac Harrison’s racecar barrels around the track at 150 mph, every bump and turn jolts through him. It’s an almost out-of-body experience, Harrison said. He finds “calm in the chaos.”

The Bullis senior is a semipro racecar driver and a forward on the Bulldogs’ hockey team. Though vastly different, both sports demand mental fortitude.

“When you’re going as fast as you can, you’re on the knife’s edge of what your car is capable of,” Harrison said. “In the car, it’s all about managing the car and managing your own mindset as to not get overwhelmed with everything going on.”

Harrison grew up at the race-track with his father, who also drives, and got his first car when he was 6. He started playing hockey in the sixth grade.

Harrison competes in Sports Car Club of America events. Summit Point Motorsports Park in West Virginia is his home track. He races in the spring and summer and plays hockey in the fall and winter.

No matter the season, Harrison finds time to practice driving. His car isn’t street legal, so he installed a race simulator in his home. Harrison also uses virtual reality to practice. The value of mental visualization is the biggest similarity between his two sports.

Reaves said, “the way we can manipulate the game on the offensive end and get what we want on every single possession. Luka is one of the best passers in the world. I think it’s the high-level IQ going along with pieces that really fit. ... There’s going to be growing pains. I don’t think anybody is naive to that. I think it’s going to be much easier than everybody thinks.”

Barkley’s doubts about James and Doncic jelling are rooted in long-standing hardwood logic, and the pair will have roughly two months to build chemistry before the playoffs. What’s more, the Lakers’ roster balance took a hit when their trade with the Charlotte Hornets for Mark Williams was nixed because the projected starting center failed his physical.

Yet Doncic’s debut marked a new peak of optimism for this Lakers season. Los Angeles has won 10 of its past 11 games, and James has played with excellent energy and impact throughout the stretch. The Lakers have in-

“During a race if it’s not going your way ... it’s much more likely you overdrive the car and push past your limits,” Harrison said. “In hockey, if you’re losing, you’re more likely to make mistakes as well. So between the two sports, it’s very similar when you’re losing — it’s important to keep your head right.”

— Sam Jane

Swimming

As he stepped up on the block at Germantown Indoor Swim Center on Saturday, DeMatha senior Josh Lopez knew the final individual race of his high school career could have massive implications. Every point mattered in the Stags’ duel with Gonzaga at the Washington Metropolitan Interscholastic Swimming and Diving Championships. If his team was to get over the hump for a historic Metros win, he would need to contribute in the 500-yard freestyle.

In the meet’s longest, most grueling race, Lopez shined. Seeded second, the senior raced to an early lead and never looked back to claim the only individual Metros title of his career. Lopez finished in 4:30.43 to score 24 points for the Stags, who went on to win the team title by just three points.

“Winning the 500 free was the big moment for me,” said Lopez, who slapped the water in celebration after touching first. “I knew I had done my part. ... It meant everything to me.”

A four-year varsity contributor, Lopez has watched his team blossom into a capable contender in his senior season. The Stags knew at the start of the year that they had started to close the gap on Gonzaga, but close losses to the Eagles at the Washington Catholic Athletic Conference meet and the Washington Metropolitan Prep School Swimming and Diving League championships made them wary of the challenge they faced Saturday.

This time, DeMatha wouldn’t be denied. Lopez added a third-place finish in the 200 freestyle to score 44 individual points. Just minutes after his win in the 500 free, Lopez turned in a split of 21.43 seconds for the Stags’ 200 freestyle relay team, which beat the Eagles by just 0.11 seconds. He then led off the 400 freestyle relay, the night’s final race; a second-place finish clinched the team’s first Metros win.

— Noah Ferguson

Wrestling

Five St. James School wrestlers posed with their awards after winning their weight classes at the Mid-Atlantic Athletic Conference individual championships Feb. 1. But Coach Kacey Michelsen wasn’t satisfied.

“We expected to do even more,” Michelsen said. “We feel like [the other schools] issued a bit of a challenge to us that woke us up even more.”

The Saints responded by winning the MAC dual championship four days later, securing the title in Michelsen’s first year as coach. He aims to establish conference dominance as the standard while preparing for the Maryland Independent State Championship this weekend.

Jorge Garrido Urias (113 pounds), Michael Holmes (126), Chase Pugh (132), Gabe Robinson (165) and Derek Owumi (215) were the individual champions. Holmes secured his 100th win during the dual championships.

“I was pumped up,” he said. “The guys were there supporting me. It was a great feeling.”

— Michael Howes

In debut as duo, Doncic, James hit floor running

LAKERS FROM D1

Shortly before halftime, Doncic gathered a defensive rebound, spun and threw a perfectly timed bullet pass to a streaking James, who converted an easy layup in stride.

“I was a little nervous before,” Doncic said. “I don’t know the last time I was nervous before a game. Once I stepped out there on the court, it was fun. For [James] to say something like that [in the huddle], it feels amazing and gives me confidence. After that speech, it was chills. [Playing with James] is special. He sees the game in a different way than a lot of people. His IQ is insane. To have two guys like that on the court, I think it’s going to help the whole team out.”

In the wake of the Dallas Mavericks’ decision to deal Doncic to the Lakers for all-star center Anthony Davis, TNT commentator Charles Barkley opined, “This thing is not going to be smooth in L.A. with him and LeBron, because both of them want the ball 100 percent of the time.”

During their first night together, nothing could have been further from the truth. James, 40, and Doncic, 25, showed instant chemistry against an overwhelmed Jazz team that ranks 28th in defensive efficiency and winning percentage. An especially grouchy critic would point out that the duo was too eager to chase highlight plays during this maiden voyage, but just about everyone in the home crowd was having too much fun to complain.

Doncic, who was playing for the first time since he suffered a calf strain on Christmas, posted 14 points, five rebounds and four assists in 24 minutes. Though he struggled to find the range on his outside shot after nearly seven weeks off, Doncic moved well laterally, accelerated and decelerated without hesitation and generally showed no ill effects from the injury.

As some fans in Dallas continued to protest the trade and call for Mavericks General Manager Nico Harrison to be fired, Doncic took the stage in Los Angeles for the first time with his parents, fiancée and daughter looking on. Mavericks legend Dirk Nowitzki also took a seat near the court, writing on social media that he “will always be a Mav for life, but had to come support my guy.”

The Lakers blanketed the arena with Doncic giveaway T-shirts, and they played Serbian music — Doncic’s favorite — when he took the court to warm up. Doncic heard “Lu-ka! Lu-ka!” chants during the second quarter, and

CANDACE BUCKNER

Spurs can show Wizards the impact of one phenom

BUCKNER FROM D1

pick at the same time that a generational talent was preparing to enter the NBA. That player spent his rookie season captivating the league. His jersey ascended to the top five in sales. By his second season, networks scheduled his small-market team for 21 nationally televised games. By this month's trade deadline, his team entered as a buyer.

The Luka Doncic trade shocked the NBA, but the deal sending former all-star guard De'Aaron Fox, still just 27, from the Sacramento Kings to the Spurs also came as a surprise. The Spurs, 23-28 and sitting in 12th place in the Western Conference, have signaled their willingness to chase a play-in tournament spot — this season. What once seemed like a nebulous timeline for rebuilding

has come into focus as a compete-now window. All because of Wemby.

Can't you envision Flagg doing the same here?

Right now, the Wizards are rebuilding — although nothing like the Spurs from 2019 to 2023. This is like a bulldozer coming in to raze everything to the ground. One-hundred-million-dollar signee Kyle Kuzma? Gone. Veteran big man Jonas Valanciunas? Gone. The pursuit of future first-round picks and last place in the league? Present!

What the Wizards need is the appearance of competitiveness — and the team climbing out of an 18-point hole against the Spurs on Monday night provided that — but the losses are a down payment for the future. The Wizards need to lose. And, as previously written, they need luck.

If the Wizards get fortunate



GREG GUME/GETTY IMAGES

Victor Wembanyama, the top pick of the 2023 NBA draft, has led the Spurs back to the verge of relevance after years of rebuilding.

by landing the top pick in the 2025 draft, just as Flagg is preparing to be Duke's next one-and-done phenom, the way forward out of this basketball blight will become clearer.

The 6-9 Flagg is a completely different player from Wembanyama. His appeal and impact, however, could be just as significant for his new NBA home. While LeBron James and Stephen Curry still rule as the

league's most popular players, when they retire, the NBA will need a homegrown superstar among its top tier, joining foreign-born Nikola Jokic, Shai Gilgeous-Alexander, Doncic and Wembanyama. And, as superficial as it might seem, Flagg's race also factors into the attention he draws, perhaps opening up more promotional opportunities for his first NBA stop.

SCOREBOARD

PRO BASKETBALL

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	38	16	.704	
New York	35	18	.660	2½
Philadelphia	20	33	.377	17½
Brooklyn	19	34	.358	18½
Toronto	17	37	.315	21

SOUTHEAST	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	25	26	.490	
Atlanta	26	28	.481	½
Orlando	26	29	.473	1
Charlotte	13	38	.255	12
Washington	9	44	.170	17

CENTRAL	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	43	10	.811	—
Indiana	29	23	.558	13½
Milwaukee	28	24	.538	14½
Detroit	28	24	.539	15½
Chicago	22	32	.407	21½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

SOUTHWEST	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Memphis	35	17	.673	—
x-Houston	33	20	.623	2½
Dallas	28	26	.519	8
San Antonio	23	28	.451	11½
New Orleans	12	41	.226	23½

NORTHWEST	W	L	Pct	GB
Oklahoma City	43	9	.827	—
Denver	35	19	.648	9
Minnesota	30	24	.556	14
Portland	22	31	.426	21
Utah	12	40	.231	31

PACIFIC	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Lakers	32	19	.627	—
L.A. Clippers	29	23	.558	3½
Sacramento	27	26	.509	6
Golden State	27	26	.509	6
x-Phoenix	26	26	.500	6½

x-Late game

MONDAY'S RESULTS

San Antonio 131, at Washington 121
at Cleveland 128, Minnesota 107
Atlanta 112, at Orlando 106
Boston 103, at Miami 85
at Brooklyn 97, Charlotte 89
at Oklahoma City 137, New Orleans 101
Golden State 125, at Milwaukee 111
Sacramento 121, at Dallas 128 (OT)
at Denver 146, Portland 117
at L.A. Lakers 132, Utah 113

TUESDAY'S RESULTS

Toronto 106, at Philadelphia 103
New York 128, at Indiana 115
Detroit 132, at Chicago 92
Memphis at Phoenix, late
Indiana at Washington, 7
Charlotte at Orlando, 7
San Antonio at Boston, 7
Atlanta at New York, 7:30
Cleveland at Toronto, 7:30
Philadelphia at Brooklyn, 7:30
Detroit at Chicago, 8
Miami at Oklahoma City, 8
Milwaukee at Minnesota, 8
Sacramento at New Orleans, 8
Phoenix at Houston, 8:30
L.A. Lakers at Utah, 9
Portland at Denver, 9
Golden State at Dallas, 9:30
Memphis at L.A. Clippers, 10:30

THURSDAY'S GAMES

Golden State at Houston, 8
Sacramento at New Orleans, 8
Miami at Dallas, 8:30
Oklahoma City at Minnesota, 8:30
L.A. Clippers at Utah, 9

Raptors 106, 76ers 103

Toronto	26	24	34	22	— 106
Philadelphia	18	34	29	22	— 103

TORONTO	MIN	FG	FT	O-T	A	PF	PTS
Agajani	27:15	5-10	0-0	0-4	1	5	11
Barnes	37:10	10-16	12-15	1-10	3	1	33
Mogbo	20:26	2-4	0-0	1-5	5	4	4
Dick	32:23	6-13	2-3	0-4	0	1	17
Quickley	33:46	7-11	5-5	1-3	5	2	23
Walter	19:59	2-8	0-0	3-5	1	0	5
Shead	17:04	3-5	0-0	0-5	1	1	6
Boucher	14:57	0-4	0-0	3-8	1	0	0
Robinson	14:34	2-4	0-0	0-4	2	2	4
Chomche	12:00	0-2	0-0	1-2	0	1	0
Battle	9:16	1-3	0-0	0-1	0	1	3

TOTALS	240	37-91	20-24	14-46	22	18	103
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Percentages: FG, .463; FT, .826. 3-Point Goals: 11-33, .333 (Quickley 4-8, Dick 3-8, Barnes 1-2, Agajani 1-3, Battle 1-3, Walter 1-4, Mogbo 0-1, Shead 0-1, Boucher 0-2). Team Rebounds: 6. Team Turnovers: 2. Blocked Shots: 4 (Barnes 2, Chomche, Dick). Turnovers: 17 (Barnes 3, Quickley 3, Shead 3, Agajani 2, Dick 2, Mogbo 2, Boucher, Walter). Steals: 8 (Dick 3, Mogbo 2, Barnes, Robinson, Walter). Technical Fouls: None.

PHILADELPHIA	MIN	FG	FT	O-T	A	PF	PTS
Edwards	16:14	4-7	0-0	1-2	0	2	9
George	35:42	5-12	2-2	0-3	2	4	14
Embiid	38:01	10-19	10-13	5-12	4	1	27
Mayer	34:04	1-9	2-2	0-5	4	5	4
Oubre Jr.	38:55	6-12	0-0	1-3	3	12	13
Grimes	35:31	5-12	2-3	0-4	1	13	13
Yabusele	22:12	2-9	2-2	3-6	2	8	8
Butler	15:41	6-10	2-2	1-4	1	15	15
Council IV	3:40	0-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0

TOTALS	240	37-91	20-24	14-46	22	18	103
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Percentages: FG, .407; FT, .833. 3-Point Goals: 9-38, .237 (George 2-6, Yabusele 2-6, Edwards 1-2, Butler 1-3, Embiid 1-5, Grimes 1-6, Mayer 1-7, Council IV 0-1, Oubre Jr. 0-2). Team Rebounds: 5. Team Turnovers: None. Blocked Shots: 2 (Embiid, Oubre Jr.). Turnovers: 14 (Embiid 4, Maxey 4, George 2, Oubre Jr., 2, Edwards, Yabusele). Steals: 10 (George 2, Grimes 2, Oubre Jr., 2, Butler, Edwards, Embiid, Yabusele). Technical Fouls: None. At 19:37 (20:478).

TRANSACTIONS

NBA
Indiana Pacers: Signed C Jahlii Okafor to a 10-day contract.
Philadelphia 76ers: Signed F David Roddy to a 10-day contract.
Toronto Raptors: Signed F Brandon Ingram to a three-year contract extension.
NFL
Carolina Panthers: Signed K Matthew Wright to a reserve/futures contract.
New England Patriots: Re-signed DT Jeremiah Pharms to a two-year contract.
New Orleans Saints: Hired Kellen Moore as head coach.

Lakers 132, Jazz 113

Late Monday

UTAH	25	22	28	38	— 113
L.A. LAKERS	37	35	28	32	— 132

UTAH: Collins 5-10 6-7 17, Markkanen 8-18 0-0 17, Kessler 5-7 3-13, Clarkson 6-15 1-2 16, Collier 4-12 0-0 13, Sensabaugh 0-11 2-11, Filipowski 3-11 1-9, Potter 0-0 2-2 2, George 2-9 6-11, Harkless 0-0 0-0 0, Juzang 4-8 3-14. Totals: 50-92 23-27 13.

L.A. LAKERS:achimura 8-14 2-2 21, L.James 10-17 2-24, Hayes 6-6 0-12, Donic 5-14 3-14, Reeves 6-7 0-7 22, Finney-Smith 1-4 2-2 4, Vanderbilt 0-3 0-0 0, Morris 1-0 0-3, Jemison III 1-0 0-2, Goodwin 8-11 0-17, Milton 0-2 2-2 2, Vincent 4-9 0-0 11. Totals: 50-92 23-27 13.

Three-point Goals: Utah 12-40 (Juzzang 3-7, Clarkson 3-7, Filipowski 2-3, Collins 1-2, Collier 1-3, George 1-6, Markkanen 1-8, Sensabaugh 0-1), L.A. Lakers 15-42 (Reaves 3-5,achimura 3-6, L.James 3-7, Vincent 3-8, Morris 1-1, Goodwin 1-2, Donic 1-7, Vanderbilt 0-1, Milton 0-1, Finney-Smith 0-3). Fouled Out: None. Rebounds: Utah 39 (Kessler 12), L.A. Lakers 44 (Reaves 9).

Assists: Utah 29 (Collins 10), L.A. Lakers 28 (L.James 8). Denver 38 (Jokic 7). Assists: Portland 25 (Avdija 8), Denver 44 (Pickett 9). Total Fouls: Portland 20, Denver 23. At 19:35 (19:520)

Nuggets 146, Trail Blazers 117

Late Monday

PORTLAND	27	28	37	25	— 117
DENVER	38	32	42	34	— 146

PORTLAND: Avdija 5-12 4-6 16, Camara 2-7 0-6, Ayton 5-9 0-10, Henderson 2-5 1-6, Simons 5-13 4-4 17, Walker 1-4 2-5, Grimes 0-8 4-4 21, Reath 1-2 0-3, Eaton 6-16 2-22, Rupert 0-1 0-0 0, Sharpe 5-11 0-0 11. Totals: 40-88 22-61 17.

DENVER: Braun 12-14 2-2 26, Gordon 3-5 2-2 9, Jay 15-22 8-8 40, J.Murray 7-10 2-3 17, Strawther 2-14 0-0 18, Jones 0-10 0-0 0, Nnaji 4-6 2-11, Hall 1-0 0-2, Jordan 2-2 1-2 5, Alexander 2-4 0-4, Pickett 6-10 1-14. Totals: 60-91 18-20 146.

Three-point Goals: Portland 15-37 (Banton 3-7, Simons 3-7, Avdija 2-4, Camara 2-4, Clayton 1-1, Reath 1-1, Walker 1-2, Henderson 1-4, Sharpe 1-6, Rupert 0-1). Denver 8-25 (Strawther 2-6, Jokic 2-7, Tyson 0-1, Nnaji 0-1, J.Murray 1-2, Pickett 1-4, Jones 0-1, Gordon 0-3). Fouled Out: None. Rebounds: Portland 33 (Clingan 7), Denver 38 (Jokic 7). Assists: Portland 25 (Avdija 8), Denver 44 (Pickett 9). Total Fouls: Portland 20, Denver 23. At 19:35 (19:520)

HOCKEY

NHL

ATLANTIC	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Florida	57	34	20	3	71	192	165
Toronto	55	33	20	2	68	169	156
Tampa Bay	55	31	20	4	66	197	153
Ottawa	56	29	23	4	62	158	156
Detroit	55	28	22	5	61	160	171
Boston	57	27	24	6	60	157	182
Montreal	56	25	26	5	55	162	194
Buffalo	54	22	27	5	49	171	185

METROPOLITAN	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Washington	55	36	11	8	80	196	140
Carolina	56	33	19	4	70	184	154
New Jersey	57	31	20	6	68	175	142
Columbus	56	22	31	8	60	184	186
N.Y. Rangers	55	27	24	4	58	165	168
N.Y. Islanders	55	23	27	7	57	152	162
Pittsburgh	57	23	25	9	55	164	201
Philadelphia	57	24	26	7	55	162	192

CENTRAL	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Winnipeg	56	39	14	3	81	202	134
Dallas	55	35	18	2	72	182	139
Minnesota	56	33	19	4	70	163	159
Colorado	57	33	22	2	68	186	174
Utah	56	24	23	9	57	150	170
St. Louis	56	25	26	5	55	154	171
Nashville	54	19	28	7	45	144	179
Chicago	55	17	31	7	41	149	191

PACIFIC	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Edmonton	54	37	4	7	72	182	152
Seattle	56	33	17	6	72	185	155
Vegas	55	33	17	7	65	151	136
Vancouver	55	28	11	6	63	155	166
Calgary	56	26	21	8	60	148	165
Anaheim	54	24	24	6	54	137	165
San Jose	57	24	29	4	52	169	183
Los Angeles	57	15	35	7	37	148	216

x-Late game

MONDAY'S GAMES
No games scheduled

TUESDAY'S GAMES
4 Nations Face-Off: Sweden at Canada in Montreal, 8

THURSDAY'S GAMES
4 Nations Face-Off: USA vs. Finland in Montreal, 8

FRIDAY'S GAMES
No games scheduled

WEDNESDAY'S GAME
4 Nations Face-Off: Sweden at Canada in Montreal, 8

THURSDAY'S GAMES
4 Nations Face-Off: USA vs. Finland in Montreal, 8

FRIDAY'S GAMES
No games scheduled

WEDNESDAY'S GAME
4 Nations Face-Off: USA vs. Finland in Montreal, 8

THURSDAY'S GAMES
4 Nations Face-Off: USA vs. Finland in Montreal, 8

FRIDAY'S GAMES
No games scheduled

WEDNESDAY'S GAME
4 Nations Face-Off: USA vs. Finland in Montreal, 8

THURSDAY'S GAMES
4 Nations Face-Off: USA vs. Finland in Montreal, 8

FRIDAY'S GAMES
No games scheduled

WEDNESDAY'S GAME
4 Nations Face-Off: USA vs. Finland in Montreal, 8

THURSDAY'S GAMES
4 Nations Face-Off: USA vs. Finland in Montreal, 8

FRIDAY'S GAMES
No games scheduled

WEDNESDAY'S GAME
4 Nations Face-Off: USA vs. Finland in Montreal, 8

THURSDAY'S GAMES
4 Nations Face-Off: USA vs. Finland in Montreal, 8

FRIDAY'S GAMES
No games scheduled

WEDNESDAY'S GAME
4 Nations Face-Off: USA vs. Finland in Montreal, 8

THURSDAY'S GAMES
4 Nations Face-Off: USA vs. Finland in Montreal, 8

FRIDAY'S GAMES
No games scheduled

WEDNESDAY'S GAME
4 Nations Face-Off: USA vs. Finland in Montreal, 8

THURSDAY'S GAMES
4 Nations Face-Off: USA vs. Finland in Montreal, 8

FRIDAY'S GAMES
No games scheduled

WEDNESDAY'S GAME
4 Nations Face-Off: USA vs. Finland in Montreal, 8

THURSDAY'S GAMES
4 Nations Face-Off: USA vs. Finland in Montreal, 8

FRIDAY'S GAMES
No games scheduled

WEDNESDAY'S GAME
4 Nations Face-Off: USA vs. Finland in Montreal, 8

THURSDAY'S GAMES
4 Nations Face-Off: USA vs. Finland in Montreal, 8

FRIDAY'S GAMES
No games scheduled

WEDNESDAY'S GAME
4 Nations Face-Off: USA vs. Finland in Montreal, 8

THURSDAY'S GAMES
4 Nations Face-Off: USA vs. Finland in Montreal, 8

FRIDAY'S GAMES
No games scheduled

WEDNESDAY'S GAME

washingtonpost.com/classifieds

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2025

EZ

Cars

RENAULT

Low MILEAGE



Rivian R1S Quad Large 2024 575,900, 3750 miles. Adventure package+11" wheels. The exterior, off white interior, perfect condition, single owner, non-smoker. Great Falls, VA. 202.935.8593. Cashier's check/wire only.

1447 Autos Wanted

DONATE YOUR CAR/TRUCK/RV! Lutheran Mission Society of MD/DC, Inc. Place needed in the applications with food, clothing, counseling, tax deductible. MD, 1444, 202.935.8593. www.CompassionPlace.org

E JOBS

Engineer - Software Engineering. Work as a member of the architecture team, defining a best-fit solution for existing problems and new business opportunities in the applications space. Participate and contribute to all phases of the Software Development Life Cycle (SDLC). Bachelor's degree in Computer Engineering, Computer Science, Information Technology or a closely related field plus two years developing complex software programs, using scripts to create, modify, and design databases, and debugging code. Based in McLean, VA. Telecommuting Permitted. Please forward your resume to: global sourcing@maximus.com with "Engineer - Software Engineering (VA - 4617)" in the subject line. MAXIMUS, Inc.

Legal Notices

"Federal funding has been appropriated by Congress to the District of Columbia for the 42 of the Emergency Food and Shelter National Board Program (EFSN). Washington, DC was awarded \$387,722 in federal funding for Phase 42 from EFSN to supplement emergency food and shelter programs located and/or providing services to DC. Funded services include mass shelter (emergency shelter, transitional shelter/housing only), served meals (e.g. congregate meals), other food (e.g. food pantry), and rent/mortgage financial assistance. The DC EFSN Local Board will determine Phase 42 funding awards to local organizations providing services to the District of Columbia. Under the terms of the grant from the National Board, local agencies chosen to receive funds must: 1) be private voluntary non-profits or units of government, 2) have an accounting system, 3) practice sound financial management when providing services, 4) have demonstrated the capability to deliver emergency food and/or shelter programs, and 5) if they are the sole provider of unitary organization, they must have a voluntary board. Public or private voluntary, agencies interested in applying for Phase 42 funding must attend a public meeting for the city ward in which the program is located for providing services. Meetings will be held during the period of February 19 - 26, 2025. For list of ward meetings and more information about EFSN, please contact Local Board Chair, Leslie Wallace at (202) 269-6848 or lwallee@foodandshelter.org."

There is now pending before the District of Columbia Superior Court a civil action, captioned as **Case No. 2024-CAB-003227** seeking to affect title to the property now or formerly owned by **Defendant: Maria Weaver, located at 616 N Hamp-Shire Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20009.** A copy of the action is available in the Clerk's office of the Court. A written answer, including any claims or defenses, must be filed with the District of Columbia Superior Court by **February 5, 2025 at 4:00 PM**, or before the date of the trial. Failure to file an answer may result in a default judgment being entered against the defendant. For more information, please contact the Clerk of the Court at (202) 269-6848 or lwallee@foodandshelter.org."

Trustees Sale - DC

Pursuant to the Single Family Mortgage Foreclosure Act of 1994, 12 U.S.C. Chapter 38A and the Secretary's Foreclosure Commissioner designation, a **COMMISSIONER'S SALE** of **5463 Nebraska Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20015 (SSL, 2025-0088)** will occur by public auction outside the main entrance to the building at the Superior Court for the District of Columbia located at 500 Indiana Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20001, on **February 26, 2025 at 3:45 PM**, pursuant to a default of a note secured by a deed of trust executed by Fed-elia E. Kehayias, in and to the Lender - Elliott - Conservator, recorded 1/4/2012, in the Recorder of Deeds for the District of Columbia, as Document No. 2019041847.

TERMS OF SALE can be reviewed by the recorded notice of default on file with the Recorder of Deeds for the District of Columbia, for which all terms are incorporated herein into this notice. A 10% deposit payable to Secretary of Housing and Urban Development is immediately required for winning bidder in certified funds. Third party certified checks will not be accepted. Full terms of Sale and opening bids are listed at <http://www.virtuallawoffice.com>. Anderson Law, 2492 N. Landing Rd., #104, Va Beach, VA 23462, 757-437-1100.

Prinice Georges County

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND
CARRIE M. WARD, et al.
6003 Executive Blvd., Suite 101
Rockville, MD 20852
Substitute Trustees/Plaintiffs,
vs.
DAVID WESLEY JONES (DECEASED)
PEGGY L. MILLER-JONES AKA PEGGY MILLER-JONES (DECEASED)
5201 Wheeler Road
Oxon Hill, MD 20745
Defendants(s).

Case No.C-16-CV-23-001271

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given this **30 day of January, 2025**, by the Circuit Court for Prince George's County, Maryland, that the sale of the property mentioned in these proceedings and described as **5201 Wheeler Road, Oxon Hill, MD 20745**, made and reported by the Substitute Trustee, will be RATIFIED AND CONFIRMED, unless cause to the contrary thereof is shown on or before the **3 day of March, 2025**, provided a copy of this NOTICE be inserted in some daily newspaper printed in said County, once in each of three successive weeks before the **3 day of March, 2025**. The report states the purchase price at the Foreclosure sale to be **\$331,000.00**.

Mahasin El Amin
Clerk, Circuit Court for Prince George's County, Maryland

BWW#MD-371429 0012484533

Prinice Georges County

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND
BENJAMIN P. SMITH
Substitute Trustee
Plaintiff,
vs.
ALVIN T. SMITH, et al
Defendants(s).

Civil No. C-16-CV-23-001331

THIRD PARTY SALE

NOTICE PURSUANT TO RULE 14-305(D)

Pursuant to Rule 14-305(D), Notice is hereby given this **24 day of January, 2025**, by the Circuit Court for Prince George's County, Maryland, that the sale of the property mentioned in these proceedings, made and reported by Benjamin P. Smith, Substitute Trustee herein, will be ratified and confirmed, unless cause to the contrary thereof is shown on or before the **24 day of February, 2025**, provided a copy of this Notice be inserted in some newspaper published in said County, once in each of three successive weeks before the **24 day of February, 2025**. The report states the purchase price at the Foreclosure sale to be **\$381,000.00**. The property sold has the following street address:

Tax ID No. 14-3237658
8629 Park Avenue
Bowie, MD 20728
File No. 115852-00847

Mahasin El Amin
Clerk of the Circuit Court

Feb 5, 12, 19, 2025 0012484533

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

ANDREW J. BRENNER, et al.
6003 Executive Blvd., Suite 101
Rockville, MD 20852
Substitute Trustees/Plaintiffs,

vs.

MARCUS D. BRAXTON (DECEASED)
3775 Eightynenny Lane,
Bowie, MD 20716
Defendants(s).

Case No.C-16-CV-24-004902

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given this **30 day of January, 2025**, by the Circuit Court for Prince George's County, Maryland, that the sale of the property mentioned in these proceedings and described as **3775 Eightynenny Lane, Unit 179, Bowie, MD 20716**, made and reported by the Substitute Trustee, will be RATIFIED AND CONFIRMED, unless cause to the contrary thereof is shown on or before the **3 day of March, 2025**, provided a copy of this NOTICE be inserted in some daily newspaper printed in said County, once in each of three successive weeks before the **3 day of March, 2025**. The report states the purchase price at the Foreclosure sale to be **\$268,000.00**.

Mahasin El Amin
Clerk, Circuit Court for Prince George's County, Maryland

BWW#MD-372105 0012484532

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

Diane S. Rosenberg
Mark D. Meyer
Miroslav Nikolov
4540 West Highway,
Suite 600
Bowie, MD 20814
Substitute Trustee
Plaintiffs

vs.

William E. Massey Jr.
7677 East Arborcy Court
Laurel, MD 20707
Defendants(s).

Case No. C-16-CV-24-004276

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given this **30 day of January, 2025**, by the Circuit Court for Prince George's County, Maryland, that the sale of the property mentioned in these proceedings and described as **7677 East Arborcy Court, Laurel, MD 20707**, made and reported by the Substitute Trustee, will be ratified and confirmed, unless cause to the contrary thereof is shown on or before the **3 day of March, 2025**, provided a copy of this notice be inserted in some daily newspaper printed in said County, once in each of three successive weeks before the **3 day of March, 2025**. The report states the purchase price at the Foreclosure sale to be **\$294,500.00**.

Mahasin El Amin
Clerk of the Circuit Court for Prince George's County, Maryland

FILE NUMBER:23-001927-MD-F-1

Feb 5, 12, 19, 2025 0012484518

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

ANDREW J. BRENNER, et al.
6003 Executive Blvd., Suite 101
Rockville, MD 20852
Substitute Trustees/Plaintiffs,

vs.

MICHELLE D. RHETT (DECEASED)
15621 James Way
MENDOSA, MD 20607
Defendants(s).

Case No.C-16-CV-24-005087

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given this **30 day of January, 2025**, by the Circuit Court for Prince George's County, Maryland, that the sale of the property mentioned in these proceedings and described as **15621 James Way, Accokeek, MD 20607**, made and reported by the Substitute Trustee, will be RATIFIED AND CONFIRMED, unless cause to the contrary thereof is shown on or before the **3 day of March, 2025**, provided a copy of this NOTICE be inserted in some daily newspaper printed in said County, once in each of three successive weeks before the **3 day of March, 2025**. The report states the purchase price at the Foreclosure sale to be **\$513,000.00**.

Mahasin El Amin
Clerk, Circuit Court for Prince George's County, Maryland

BWW#MD-110105 0012484528

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

ANDREW J. BRENNER, et al.
6003 Executive Blvd., Suite 101
Rockville, MD 20852
Substitute Trustees/Plaintiffs,

vs.

GEOVANNI H. VILLATORO
KENNETH G. VIATORO
14300 Duckett Road
Brandywine, MD 20613
Defendants(s).

Case No.C-16-CV-24-004877

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given this **30 day of January, 2025**, by the Circuit Court for Prince George's County, Maryland, that the sale of the property mentioned in these proceedings and described as **14300 Duckett Road, Brandywine, MD 20613**, made and reported by the Substitute Trustee, will be RATIFIED AND CONFIRMED, unless cause to the contrary thereof is shown on or before the **3 day of March, 2025**, provided a copy of this NOTICE be inserted in some daily newspaper printed in said County, once in each of three successive weeks before the **3 day of March, 2025**. The report states the purchase price at the Foreclosure sale to be **\$531,000.00**.

Mahasin El Amin
Clerk, Circuit Court for Prince George's County, Maryland

BWW#MD-371567 0012484529

Trustees Sale - DC

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEES' SALE OF REAL PROPERTY
COMPRISING AN 83 UNIT GARDEN APARTMENT COMPLEX (TWO BUILDINGS ON THREE PARCELS)
4069-4089 MINNESOTA AVENUE N.E.
WASHINGTON DC 20019
LOT 0003 SQUARE 5080, LOT 0809 SQUARE 5080
AND LOT 0001 SQUARE PAR 0176

In execution of the power of sale contained in a Deed of Trust, Assignment of Leases and Rents, Security Agreement and Fixture Filing ("Deed of Trust") dated March 29, 2024, and recorded on April 5, 2024, as Instrument No. 2024031848 with the District of Columbia Recorder of Deeds (the "Recorder of Deeds"), in the original principal amount of \$15,500,000, which Deed of Trust also constitutes a security agreement and creates a security interest in all the fixtures and personal property described in the Deed of Trust, defaults having occurred under the Deed of Trust and in the payment of the debts secured thereby, and being instructed to do so by holder of the promissory note ("Note") secured thereby (the "Noteholder"), and following mailing on January 23, 2025 of a Notice of Foreclosure Sale of Real Property or Condominium Unit, which was recorded with the Recorder of Deeds on January 23, 2025 as Instrument No. 2025008120, and the recordation with the Recorder of Deeds of a Deed of Appointment of Substitute Trustees as Instrument No. 2025008133, and an Affidavit of Non-residential Mortgage Foreclosure as Instrument No. 2025008118, the undersigned Substitute Trustees, any of whom may act, will on **February 27, 2025, at 11:00 a.m.**, offer for sale at public auction the land and personal property described below. The auction sale will be held within the offices of Harvey West Auctioneers, LLC, located at 5335 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, Suite 440, Washington, D.C. 20015.

The real property being sold includes the land and all buildings, structures, and other improvements thereon (if any), and all leases, rents, issues and profits, and other appurtenant rights associated with the ownership of the land (if any), described as follows:

All that certain lot or parcel of land together with all improvements thereon located and being in the City of Washington in the District of Columbia and being more particularly described as follows:

Lot 31, in Square 5080, in a subdivision made by A.D. Loffier, Trustee, as per plat recorded in Liber No. 72 at Folio 24 among the Records of the Office of the Surveyor for the District of Columbia.

Together with and including the southerly half of the abandoned Edson Place, N.E., as shown on a plat of subdivision recorded in the Office of the Surveyor of the District of Columbia in Plat Book 195 at Page No. 166, containing 1,272 square feet or 0.029 acres of land, more or less, and assessed as Lot 809 in Square 5080.

At the date hereof the above described land is designated on the Records of the Assessor of the District of Columbia for assessment and taxation purposes as Lot 31 in Square 5080.

AND

Parcel 176/91, being part of a tract of land called the "Beall's Adventure", described in accordance with a plat of survey recorded in Survey Book 100 at page 427 among the Records of the Office of the Surveyor of the District of Columbia as follows:

BEGINNING for the same at the intersection of the Easterly line of Minnesota Avenue with the North line of Edson Place and running with the line of Minnesota Avenue the following two courses and distances: (1) North 39 degrees 57 minutes East 38.55 feet; (2) North 29 degrees 07 minutes East 122.05 feet; thence leaving said Minnesota Avenue and running South 81 degrees 31 minutes 30 seconds East 401.30 feet to the westerly line of the land conveyed to the United States of America by Deed recorded in Liber 6446 at Folio 116; thence with said Westerly line South 70 degrees 49 minutes West 316.01 feet; thence North 81 degrees 41 minutes West 184.55 feet to the place of Beginning.

At the date hereof the above described land is designated on the Records of the Assessor of the District of Columbia for assessment and taxation purposes as Lot 91 in Square Parcel 176.

Together with and including the northerly half of the abandoned Edson Place, N.E., as shown on a plat of subdivision recorded in the Office of the Surveyor of the District of Columbia in Plat Book 195 at Page No. 168, containing 1,247 square feet or 0.028 acres of land, more or less, and assessed as Lot 809 in Square 5080.

Only the personal property subject to the operation and effect of the Deed of Trust and actually located at the real property at the time of sale will be sold and conveyed. The Substitute Trustees make no representation or warranty as to the identity of such personal property, nor will the Substitute Trustees deliver possession of any such personal property, it being the responsibility of the purchaser to identify and obtain possession of such personal property. The real and personal property are hereinafter referred to as the "Property".

To qualify as a bidder a deposit of \$500,000.00, by certified or cashier's check, must be displayed to the Substitute Trustees prior to the commencement of the sale by each bidder other than the Noteholder, security acting on the Noteholder's behalf, or any subsidiary or affiliate of the Noteholder (each a "Lender Affiliated Party"). Within two (2) business days of the sale, the purchaser shall increase the deposit to 10% of the purchase price. The deposit, without interest, will be applied to the purchase price at closing. Any Lender Affiliated Party may apply the outstanding amount of the debt under the Note as a credit to its bid.

Immediately after the strike down of the bid, the purchaser shall be required to sign and deliver to the Substitute Trustees a contract of sale expanding upon the terms of this notice and incorporating verbal announcements, if any. Prior to the sale, the Substitute Trustees will make available for prospective bidders upon request a copy of the contract of sale.

The Property shall be sold in its "AS IS, WHERE IS" condition and without recourse, warranty, express or implied, as to the nature, condition or description of the Property, equipment, fixtures, or improvements.

Conveyance of the Property shall be by trustees' deed and quitclaim bill of sale without warranty, and shall be subject to all recorded and unrecorded liens, encumbrances, security interests, easements, conditions, reservations, covenants, restrictions, leases, occupancy agreements, rights of way, rights of redemption of federal lienholders, encumbrances, and mechanics and materialmen's liens, all whether of record or not of record and to the extent any of the foregoing may lawfully apply to the Property being sold or any part thereof, and take priority over the liens and security interests of the Deed of Trust. The Property is sold subject to such state of facts that an accurate survey or physical inspection might disclose. The Property will be sold subject to the rights of any person(s) in possession of any or all of the Property as tenants under any recorded or unrecorded leases, if any.

Purchaser will take title to the Property subject to all taxes, public charges, assessments, water and sewer charges, and other utility charges, if any, and subject to all expenses of the Property.

Neither the Substitute Trustees nor any Lender Affiliated Party, nor their respective agents, successors or assigns make any representations or warranties, either expressed or implied with respect to the Property including, without limitation, recorded or unrecorded leases or other occupancy agreements, if any, operating and management agreements, if any, or use, physical conditions, structural integrity, construction, workmanship, habitability, zoning, subdivision, fitness for a particular purpose or merchantability, or compliance with building codes, environmental ordinances or regulations or similar matters. The purchaser recognizes and agrees that any investigation, examination, or inspection of the Property being sold is within the control of the owner or other parties in possession and their agents and not within the control of the Substitute Trustees, or their successors or assigns, or any Lender Affiliated Party.

Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the Property will be sold without representation or warranty as to the environmental condition of the Property or the compliance of the Property with federal, state, or local laws and regulations concerning the purchase or disposal of hazardous substances. Acceptance of the deed to the Property shall constitute a waiver of any claims against the Substitute Trustees or any of the Lender Affiliated Parties (collectively, "Releasees"), concerning the environmental condition of the Property including, but not limited to, claims arising under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980, as amended, and/or state or local law, ordinances or regulations. The purchaser waives any cause of action it may have against the Releasees for any condition of the Property that may not comply with any federal, state or local law, regulation or ruling including, without limitation, any laws, regulations and rulings relating to environmental contamination or hazardous wastes. Such agreement also shall provide that if, notwithstanding such agreement, a court of competent jurisdiction should permit such a claim to be made against any Releasees, such agreement shall serve as the overwhelming primary factor in any equitable apportionment of response costs or other liability. Nothing in this paragraph shall release, waive or preclude any claims the purchaser may have against any other person with respect to the Property.

Purchaser assumes the risk of loss or damage to the Property from the strike down of the bid forward. Purchaser shall be responsible for obtaining physical possession of the Property.

Purchaser shall settle on or before forty-five (45) days after the sale.

TIME SHALL BE OF THE ESSENCE. The balance of the purchase price of the Property over and above the bidding deposit will be due at settlement by cashiers or certified check or by immediately available wire funds. Purchaser shall be responsible for payment of all settlement costs including, but not limited to, deed preparation and all recordation taxes and charges, settlement fees, title insurance premiums, and all other costs incident to settlement.

All rents, without pro-ration for the current month, collected to the day prior to closing shall remain the property of the Noteholder or, if applicable, any appointed receiver managing the Property. All rents, without proration for the current month, and any delinquent rents, collected on and after the day of closing shall be the property of the purchaser. Purchaser will have the right to be substituted, at purchaser's cost, as the plaintiff in any litigation cases against tenants and purchaser may pursue such litigation at its cost and retain any monetary awards from such cases. Utilities associated with the Property shall be adjusted at closing, with the meters read the day prior to closing. All other costs associated with the Property, current and past due, if any, shall be the responsibility of the purchaser with no proration.

If the successful bidder fails to complete settlement, the deposit shall be forfeited and applied to the costs of the sale, including trustees' fees, and the balance, if any, shall be delivered to the Noteholder to be applied against all amounts owed it under the note and Deed of Trust. There shall be no refunds. The Property shall be resold at the risk and the cost of the defaulting bidder. Such forfeiture shall not limit any rights or remedies of the Substitute Trustees or the Noteholder with respect to any such default, and the defaulting purchaser shall be liable for all costs of re-sale of the Property (including attorneys' fees of the Noteholder and the Substitute Trustees), plus any amount by which the ultimate sale price for the Property is less than the defaulting purchaser's bid. After any such default and forfeiture, the Property may, at the discretion of the Substitute Trustees, be conveyed to the next highest bidder of the Property whose bid was acceptable to the Substitute Trustees. The defaulting purchaser shall not be entitled to any surplus proceeds or profits resulting from any resale of the Property.

If the Substitute Trustees are unable to convey title as required herein, purchaser's sole remedy at law and in equity shall be limited to a refund of the deposit and the sale shall be considered null and void and of no effect whatsoever.

The Substitute Trustees reserve the right, in their sole discretion, to reject any and all bids, to withdraw all or part of the Property from sale at any time before or at the auction, to modify the requirement for bidders' deposits, to extend the time to receive bids, to waive or modify the deposit requirement, to amend or supplement the terms of the sale by verbal announcement made by the Substitute Trustees at the sale, to recess the sale, to conduct other sales as the Substitute Trustees may determine in their discretion, and/or to extend the period of time for settlement.

Immediately upon conveyance and assignment by the Substitute Trustees of the Property to the purchaser or purchasers at foreclosure, all duties, liabilities and obligations of the Substitute Trustees, if any, with respect to the Property shall be extinguished.

Substitute Trustees:
Andrea Campbell Davison
Blake W. Frieman
Jennifer O. Schiffer

For Information contact:
Andrea Campbell Davison
Beann Kinney & Korman PC
2311 Wilson Blvd., Suite 500
Arlington, Virginia 22201
703-525-4000

HARVEY WEST AUCTIONEERS, LLC
6335 Wisconsin Ave., NW, Ste. 440
Washington, DC 20015
202-403-6767
www.harvestheaven.com

Feb 6, 10, 12, 14, 17, 2025 0012483618

Trustees Sale - DC

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEES' SALE OF REAL PROPERTY
COMPRISING AN 83 UNIT GARDEN APARTMENT COMPLEX (TWO BUILDINGS ON THREE PARCELS)
4069-4089 MINNESOTA AVENUE N.E.
WASHINGTON DC 20019
LOT 0003 SQUARE 5080, LOT 0809 SQUARE 5080
AND LOT 0001 SQUARE PAR 0176

In execution of the power of sale contained in a Deed of Trust, Assignment of Leases and Rents, Security Agreement and Fixture Filing ("Deed of Trust") dated March 29, 2024, and recorded on April 5, 2024, as Instrument No. 2024031848 with the District of Columbia Recorder of Deeds (the "Recorder of Deeds"), in the original principal amount of \$15,500,000, which Deed of Trust also constitutes a security agreement and creates a security interest in all the fixtures and personal property described in the Deed of Trust, defaults having occurred under the Deed of Trust and in the payment of the debts secured thereby, and being instructed to do so by holder of the promissory note ("Note") secured thereby (the "Noteholder"), and following mailing on January 23, 2025 of a Notice of Foreclosure Sale of Real Property or Condominium Unit, which was recorded with the Recorder of Deeds on January 23, 2025 as Instrument No. 2025008120, and the recordation with the Recorder of Deeds of a Deed of Appointment of Substitute Trustees as Instrument No. 2025008133, and an Affidavit of Non-residential Mortgage Foreclosure as Instrument No. 2025008118, the undersigned Substitute Trustees, any of whom may act, will on **February 27, 2025, at 11:00 a.m.**, offer for sale at public auction the land and personal property described below. The auction sale will be held within the offices of Harvey West Auctioneers, LLC, located at 5335 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, Suite 440, Washington, D.C. 20015.

The real property being sold includes the land and all buildings, structures, and other improvements thereon (if any), and all leases, rents, issues and profits, and other appurtenant rights associated with the ownership of the land (if any), described as follows:

All that certain lot or parcel of land together with all improvements thereon located and being in the City of Washington in the District of Columbia and being more particularly described as follows:

Lot 31, in Square 5080, in a subdivision made by A.D. Loffier, Trustee, as per plat recorded in Liber No. 72 at Folio 24 among the Records of the Office of the Surveyor for the District of Columbia.

Together with and including the southerly half of the abandoned Edson Place, N.E., as shown on a plat of subdivision recorded in the Office of the Surveyor of the District of Columbia in Plat Book 195 at Page No. 166, containing 1,272 square feet or 0.029 acres of land, more or less, and assessed as Lot 809 in Square 5080.

At the date hereof the above described land is designated on the Records of the Assessor of the District of Columbia for assessment and taxation purposes as Lot 31 in Square 5080.

AND

Parcel 176/91, being part of a tract of land called the "Beall's Adventure", described in accordance with a plat of survey recorded in Survey Book 100 at page 427 among the Records of the Office of the Surveyor of the District of Columbia as follows:

BEGINNING for the same at the intersection of the Easterly line of Minnesota Avenue with the North line of Edson Place and running with the line of Minnesota Avenue the following two courses and distances: (1) North 39 degrees 57 minutes East 38.55 feet; (2) North 29 degrees 07 minutes East 122.05 feet; thence leaving said Minnesota Avenue and running South 81 degrees 31 minutes 30 seconds East 401.30 feet to the westerly line of the land conveyed to the United States of America by Deed recorded in Liber 6446 at Folio 116; thence with said Westerly line South 70 degrees 49 minutes West 316.01 feet; thence North 81 degrees 41 minutes West 184.55 feet to the place of Beginning.

At the date hereof the above described land is designated on the Records of the Assessor of the District of Columbia for assessment and taxation purposes as Lot 91 in Square Parcel 176.

Together with and including the northerly half of the abandoned Edson Place, N.E., as shown on a plat of subdivision recorded in the Office of the Surveyor of the District of Columbia in Plat Book 195 at Page No. 168, containing 1,247 square feet or 0.028 acres of land, more or less, and assessed as Lot 809 in Square 5080.

Only the personal property subject to the operation and effect of the Deed of Trust and actually located at the real property at the time of sale will be sold and conveyed. The Substitute Trustees make no representation or warranty as to the identity of such personal property, nor will the Substitute Trustees deliver possession of any such personal property, it being the responsibility of the purchaser to identify and obtain possession of such personal property. The real and personal property are hereinafter referred to as the "Property".

To qualify as a bidder a deposit of \$500,000.00, by certified or cashier's check, must be displayed to the Substitute Trustees prior to the commencement of the sale by each bidder other than the Noteholder, security acting on the Noteholder's behalf, or any subsidiary or affiliate of the Noteholder (each a "Lender Affiliated Party"). Within two (2) business days of the sale, the purchaser shall increase the deposit to 10% of the purchase price. The deposit, without interest, will be applied to the purchase price at closing. Any Lender Affiliated Party may apply the outstanding amount of the debt under the Note as a credit to its bid.

Immediately after the strike down of the bid, the purchaser shall be required to sign and deliver to the Substitute Trustees a contract of sale expanding upon the terms of this notice and incorporating verbal announcements, if any. Prior to the sale, the Substitute Trustees will make available for prospective bidders upon request a copy of the contract of sale.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2025

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Prince Georges County

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Prince Georges County

McMichael Taylor Gray LLC
7470 New Technology Way, Suite P
Frederick, MD 21703
470-480-1820

**SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEES' SALE
OF REAL PROPERTY AND
ANY IMPROVEMENTS THEREON**

**8067 CROOM ROAD
UPPER MARLBORO, MD 20772**


Under a power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust dated August 25, 2023, recorded in Liber 49131, Folio 116 among the Land Records of Prince George's County, MD, with an original principal balance of \$300,000.00, default having occurred under the terms thereof, the Sub. Trustees will sell at public auction at the Circuit Court for Prince George's County, 14735 Main St., Upper Marlboro, MD, 20772 (Duval Wing entrance, located on Main St.), on

MARCH 4, 2025 AT 11:35 AM

ALL THAT FEE SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND, together with any buildings or improvements thereon located in Prince George's County, MD and more fully described in the aforesaid Deed of Trust. Tax ID #15-1779859 & #15-1778422. The property, and any improvements thereon, will be sold in an "as is" condition and subject to conditions, restrictions and agreements of record affecting the same, if any, and with no warranty of any kind. The property will be sold subject to a prior mortgage, the amount to be announced at the time of sale.

Terms of Sale: A deposit of \$40,000 in the form of certified check, cashier's check or money order will be required of the purchaser at time and place of sale. Balance of the purchase price, together with interest on the unpaid purchase money at the current rate contained in the Deed of Trust Note, or any modifications thereto, from the date of sale to the date funds are received by the Sub. Trustees, payable in cash within ten days of final ratification of the sale by the Circuit Court. There will be no abatement of interest due to the purchaser in the event additional funds are tendered before settlement. **TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE FOR THE PURCHASER.** Adjustment of all real property taxes, including agricultural taxes, if applicable, and any and all public and/or private charges or assessments, to the extent such amounts survive foreclosure sale, including water/sewer, ground rent and front foot benefit charges, to be adjusted to date of sale and thereafter assumed by purchaser. Purchaser is responsible for any recapture of homestead tax credit. All transfer taxes and recordation taxes shall be paid by Purchaser. The purchaser shall be responsible for the payment of the ground rent escrow, if required. Condominium fees and/or homeowners association dues, if any, shall be assumed by the purchaser from the date of sale. Purchaser is responsible for obtaining physical possession of the property, and assumes risk of loss or damage to the property from the date of sale. The sale is subject to post-sale audit of the status of the loan with the loan servicer including, but not limited to, determination of whether the borrower entered into any repayment agreement, reinstated or paid off the loan prior to the sale. In any such event, this sale shall be null and void, and the Purchaser's sole remedy, in law or equity, shall be the return of the deposit without interest. If purchaser fails to settle within ten days of ratification, subject to order of court, purchaser agrees that property will be resold and entire deposit retained by Sub. Trustees as liquidated damages for all losses occasioned by the purchaser's default and purchaser shall have no further liability. The purchaser waives personal service of any papers filed in connection with its failure to settle within ten days of ratification and expressly agrees to accept service by first class mail at the address provided by the Purchaser as identified on the Memorandum of Sale. The defaulted purchaser shall not be entitled to any surplus proceeds resulting from said resale even if such surplus results from improvements to the property by said defaulted purchaser. Sub. Trustees will convey either marketable or insurable title. If they cannot deliver one or the other, or if ratification of the sale is denied by the Circuit Court for any reason, the Purchaser's sole remedy, at law or equity, is return of the deposit without interest. (Matter No. 24-001863-01)

Diana Theologou, et al., Substitute Trustees



908 York Road • Towson, MD 21204 • 410.828.4838
www.alexcooper.com

Feb 12,19,26, 2025

0012484853

Rosenberg & Associates, LLC
4340 East West Highway, Suite 600
Bethesda, MD 20814
(301) 907-8000
www.rosenberg-assoc.com

**SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEES' SALE
OF IMPROVED REAL PROPERTY**

**4907 FOX STREET
COLLEGE PARK, MD 20740**

Under a power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust from Miriam P. Oparaugo dated February 19, 2008 and recorded in Liber 29414, folio 739 among the Land Records of Prince George's County, MD, default having occurred under the terms thereof, the Trustees will sell at public auction at the Circuit Court for Prince George's County, 14735 Main St., Upper Marlboro, MD, 20772 (Duval Wing entrance, located on Main St.), on

MARCH 4, 2025 AT 11:43 AM

ALL THAT FEE SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND, together with the buildings and improvements thereon situated in Prince George's County, MD and more fully described in the aforesaid Deed of Trust. Tax ID #21-2385656. The property, which is improved by a dwelling, will be sold in an "as is" condition and subject to conditions, restrictions and agreements of record affecting the same, if any, and with no warranty of any kind.

Terms of Sale: A deposit of \$30,000 in the form of certified check, cashier's check or money order will be required of the purchaser at time and place of sale. Balance of the purchase price to be paid in cash within ten days of final ratification of the sale by the Circuit Court for Prince George's County. Interest to be paid on the unpaid purchase money at the rate pursuant to the Deed of Trust Note from the date of sale to the date funds are received in the office of the Trustees. There will be no abatement of interest in the event additional funds are tendered before settlement or if settlement is delayed for any reason. The noteholder shall not be obligated to pay interest if it is the purchaser. **TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE FOR THE PURCHASER.** There will be no reduction of interest due to overpayment of deposit. Adjustment of all real property taxes (excluding recapture of previously reduced or exempt taxes) and any other public charges or assessments, to the extent such amount survive foreclosure sale, including water/sewer charges, and ground rent to be adjusted to date of sale and paid at execution of the deed, except where the secured party is the purchaser, and thereafter assumed by the purchaser. All due and/or unpaid private utility, water and sewer facilities charges, condo/HOA assessments and Columbia Assoc. assessments, to the extent such amount survive foreclosure sale, are payable by the purchaser without adjustment. Cost of all documentary stamps, transfer taxes, recaptured taxes (including but not limited to agricultural taxes), and settlement expenses shall be borne by the purchaser. Purchaser shall be responsible for obtaining physical possession of the property. Purchaser assumes the risk of loss or damage to the property from the date of sale forward. Additional terms to be announced at the time of sale. If the Trustees are unable to convey good and marketable title, the purchaser's sole remedy in law and equity shall be limited to a refund of the deposit without interest. If the purchaser fails to go to settlement, subject to order of the court, the entire deposit (including any amount received over the advertised deposit amount) shall be forfeited to the Trustees as liquidated damages for all losses occasioned by the purchaser's default and purchaser shall have no further liability. In the event of a resale, the defaulting purchaser shall not be entitled to receive the surplus, if any, even if such surplus results from improvements to the property by said defaulting purchaser and the defaulting purchaser shall be liable to the Trustees and secured party for reasonable attorney's fees and expenses incurred in connection with all litigation involving the Property or the proceeds of the resale. Defaulting purchaser waives personal service of any document filed in connection with such a motion on him/ herself and/or any principal or corporate designee, and expressly agrees to accept service of any such document by regular mail directed to the address provided by said purchaser at the time of the foreclosure auction. Trustees file number 23-000514-MD-F-1.

Diane S. Rosenberg, Mark D. Meyer, et al., Trustees



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Feb 12,19,26, 2025

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Prince Georges County

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Prince Georges County

BWW Law Group, LLC
6003 Executive Blvd., Suite 101
Rockville, MD 20852
(301) 961-6555

**SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEES' SALE
OF REAL PROPERTY AND
ANY IMPROVEMENTS THEREON**

**5402 TRENT STREET
CLINTON, MD 20735**


Under a power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust dated February 22, 2010, recorded in Liber 31475, Folio 219 among the Land Records of Prince George's County, MD, with an original principal balance of \$283,627.00, default having occurred under the terms thereof, the Sub. Trustees will sell at public auction at the Circuit Court for Prince George's County, 14735 Main St., Upper Marlboro, MD, 20772 (Duval Wing entrance, located on Main St.), on

MARCH 4, 2025 AT 12:10 PM

ALL THAT FEE SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND, together with any buildings or improvements thereon located in Prince George's County, MD and more fully described in the aforesaid Deed of Trust. The property, and any improvements thereon, will be sold in an "as is" condition and subject to conditions, restrictions and agreements of record affecting the same, if any, and with no warranty of any kind.

Terms of Sale: A deposit of \$25,000 in the form of certified check, cashier's check or money order will be required of the purchaser at time and place of sale. Balance of the purchase price, together with interest on the unpaid purchase money at the current rate contained in the Deed of Trust Note, or any modifications thereto, from the date of sale to the date funds are received by the Sub. Trustees, payable in cash within ten days of final ratification of the sale by the Circuit Court. There will be no abatement of interest due to the purchaser in the event additional funds are tendered before settlement. **TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE FOR THE PURCHASER.** Adjustment of all real property taxes, including agricultural taxes, if applicable, and any and all public and/or private charges or assessments, to the extent such amounts survive foreclosure sale, including water/sewer, ground rent and front foot benefit charges, to be adjusted to date of sale and thereafter assumed by purchaser. Purchaser is responsible for any recapture of homestead tax credit. All transfer taxes and recordation taxes shall be paid by Purchaser. The purchaser shall be responsible for the payment of the ground rent escrow, if required. Condominium fees and/or homeowners association dues, if any, shall be assumed by the purchaser from the date of sale. Purchaser is responsible for obtaining physical possession of the property, and assumes risk of loss or damage to the property from the date of sale. The sale is subject to post-sale audit of the status of the loan with the loan servicer including, but not limited to, determination of whether the borrower entered into any repayment agreement, reinstated or paid off the loan prior to the sale. In any such event, this sale shall be null and void, and the Purchaser's sole remedy, in law or equity, shall be the return of the deposit without interest. If purchaser fails to settle within ten days of ratification, subject to order of court, purchaser agrees that property will be resold and entire deposit retained by Sub. Trustees as liquidated damages for all losses occasioned by the purchaser's default and purchaser shall have no further liability. The purchaser waives personal service of any papers filed in connection with its failure to settle within ten days of ratification and expressly agrees to accept service by first class mail at the address provided by the Purchaser as identified on the Memorandum of Sale. The defaulted purchaser shall not be entitled to any surplus proceeds resulting from said resale even if such surplus results from improvements to the property by said defaulted purchaser. Sub. Trustees will convey either marketable or insurable title. If they cannot deliver one or the other, or if ratification of the sale is denied by the Circuit Court for any reason, the Purchaser's sole remedy, at law or equity, is return of the deposit without interest. (Matter No. 355179-1)

Howard N. Bierman, Carrie M. Ward, et al.,
Substitute Trustees



908 York Road • Towson, MD 21204 • 410.828.4838
www.alexcooper.com

Feb 12,19,26, 2025

0012484847

Friedman Vartolo LLP
1325 Franklin Avenue Suite
Garden City, NY 11530
212-471-5100

**SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEES' SALE
OF IMPROVED REAL PROPERTY**

**6708 BROOKLYN BRIDGE ROAD
LAUREL, MD 20707**

Under a power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust from Edwin Pinto, dated June 24, 2022 and recorded in Liber 47892, folio 569 among the Land Records of Prince George's County, MD, default having occurred under the terms thereof and at the request of the parties secured thereby, the undersigned Substitute Trustees will offer for sale at public auction at the Circuit Court for Prince George's County, 14735 Main St., Upper Marlboro, MD, 20772 (Duval Wing entrance, located on Main St.), on

MARCH 4, 2025 AT 11:30 AM

ALL THAT FEE SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND AND THE IMPROVEMENTS THEREON situated in Prince George's County, Maryland and more fully described in the aforesaid Deed of Trust. The property is improved by a dwelling. Property Address (for Informational Purposes): 6709 Brooklyn Bridge Road, Laurel MD 20707 Tax ID Number: 10-5635765. The foreclosure sale advertised herein has been docketed in the Circuit Court for Prince George's County, Maryland, as Case No. C-16-CV-23-002408. The property will be sold in an "as is" condition and subject to conditions, restrictions, easements, encumbrances and agreements of record affecting the subject property, if any, and with no warranty of any kind.

Terms of Sale: A deposit in the form of cashier's or certified check, or in such other form as the Substitute Trustees may determine, at their sole discretion, for \$36,000 at the time of sale. If the noteholder and/or servicer is the successful bidder, the deposit requirement is waived. Balance of the purchase price is to be paid within fifteen (15) days of the final ratification of the sale by the Circuit Court for Prince George's County, Maryland. Interest is to be paid on the unpaid purchase price at the rate of 4.99000% per annum from date of sale to the date the funds are received in the office of the Substitute Trustees, if the property is purchased by an entity other than the noteholder and/or servicer. If payment of the balance does not occur within fifteen days of ratification, the deposit will be forfeited and the property will be resold at the risk and cost of the defaulting purchaser. There will be no abatement of interest due from the purchaser in the event settlement is delayed for any reason. Taxes, ground rent, water rent, and all other public charges and assessments payable on an annual basis, including sanitary and/or metropolitan district charges, and front foot benefit charges, if applicable, to be adjusted for the current year to the date of sale, and assumed thereafter by the purchaser. Condominium fees and/or homeowners association dues, if any, shall be assumed by the purchaser from the date of sale. Purchaser is responsible for obtaining physical possession of the property, and assumes risk of loss or damage to the property from the date of sale. The sale is subject to post-sale audit of the status of the loan with the loan servicer including, but not limited to, determination of whether the borrower entered into any repayment agreement, reinstated or paid off the loan prior to the sale. In any such event, this sale shall be null and void, and the Purchaser's sole remedy, in law or equity, shall be the return of the deposit without interest. If purchaser fails to settle within ten days of ratification, subject to order of court, purchaser agrees that property will be resold and entire deposit retained by Sub. Trustees as liquidated damages for all losses occasioned by the purchaser's default and purchaser shall have no further liability. The purchaser waives personal service of any papers filed in connection with its failure to settle within ten days of ratification and expressly agrees to accept service by first class mail at the address provided by the Purchaser as identified on the Memorandum of Sale. The defaulted purchaser shall not be entitled to any surplus proceeds resulting from said resale even if such surplus results from improvements to the property by said defaulted purchaser. Sub. Trustees will convey either marketable or insurable title. If they cannot deliver one or the other, or if ratification of the sale is denied by the Circuit Court for any reason, the Purchaser's sole remedy, at law or equity, is return of the deposit without interest. (Matter No. 360948-1)

Adam Friedman, Ralph Vartolo,
Catherine Aponte, Rachel Kiefer,
Substitute Trustees



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Feb 12,19,26, 2025

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Prince Georges County

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Prince Georges County

BWW Law Group, LLC
6003 Executive Blvd., Suite 101
Rockville, MD 20852
(301) 961-6555

**SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEES' SALE
OF REAL PROPERTY AND
ANY IMPROVEMENTS THEREON**

**9939 RAINTREE WAY
CLINTON, MD 20735**


Under a power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust dated November 16, 2007, recorded in Liber 29005, Folio 337 among the Land Records of Prince George's County, MD, with an original principal balance of \$216,000.00, default having occurred under the terms thereof, the Sub. Trustees will sell at public auction at the Circuit Court for Prince George's County, 14735 Main St., Upper Marlboro, MD, 20772 (Duval Wing entrance, located on Main St.), on

MARCH 4, 2025 AT 12:06 PM

ALL THAT FEE SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND, together with any buildings or improvements thereon located in Prince George's County, MD and more fully described in the aforesaid Deed of Trust. The property, and any improvements thereon, will be sold in an "as is" condition and subject to conditions, restrictions and agreements of record affecting the same, if any, and with no warranty of any kind.

Terms of Sale: A deposit of \$20,000 in the form of certified check, cashier's check or money order will be required of the purchaser at time and place of sale. Balance of the purchase price, together with interest on the unpaid purchase money at the current rate contained in the Deed of Trust Note, or any modifications thereto, from the date of sale to the date funds are received by the Sub. Trustees, payable in cash within ten days of final ratification of the sale by the Circuit Court. There will be no abatement of interest due to the purchaser in the event additional funds are tendered before settlement. **TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE FOR THE PURCHASER.** Adjustment of all real property taxes, including agricultural taxes, if applicable, and any and all public and/or private charges or assessments, to the extent such amounts survive foreclosure sale, including water/sewer, ground rent and front foot benefit charges, to be adjusted to date of sale and thereafter assumed by purchaser. Purchaser is responsible for any recapture of homestead tax credit. All transfer taxes and recordation taxes shall be paid by Purchaser. The purchaser shall be responsible for the payment of the ground rent escrow, if required. Condominium fees and/or homeowners association dues, if any, shall be assumed by the purchaser from the date of sale. Purchaser is responsible for obtaining physical possession of the property, and assumes risk of loss or damage to the property from the date of sale. The sale is subject to post-sale audit of the status of the loan with the loan servicer including, but not limited to, determination of whether the borrower entered into any repayment agreement, reinstated or paid off the loan prior to the sale. In any such event, this sale shall be null and void, and the Purchaser's sole remedy, in law or equity, shall be the return of the deposit without interest. If purchaser fails to settle within ten days of ratification, subject to order of court, purchaser agrees that property will be resold and entire deposit retained by Sub. Trustees as liquidated damages for all losses occasioned by the purchaser's default and purchaser shall have no further liability. The purchaser waives personal service of any papers filed in connection with its failure to settle within ten days of ratification and expressly agrees to accept service by first class mail at the address provided by the Purchaser as identified on the Memorandum of Sale. The defaulted purchaser shall not be entitled to any surplus proceeds resulting from said resale even if such surplus results from improvements to the property by said defaulted purchaser. Sub. Trustees will convey either marketable or insurable title. If they cannot deliver one or the other, or if ratification of the sale is denied by the Circuit Court for any reason, the Purchaser's sole remedy, at law or equity, is return of the deposit without interest. (Matter No. 373286-1)

Howard N. Bierman, Carrie M. Ward, et al.,
Substitute Trustees



908 York Road • Towson, MD 21204 • 410.828.4838
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Feb 12,19,26, 2025

0012484845

BWW Law Group, LLC
6003 Executive Blvd., Suite 101
Rockville, MD 20852
(301) 961-6555

**SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEES' SALE
OF REAL PROPERTY AND
ANY IMPROVEMENTS THEREON**

**6916 FLAG HARBOR DRIVE
DISTRICT HEIGHTS, MD 20747**


Under a power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust dated September 10, 2007, recorded in Liber 28758, Folio 99 among the Land Records of Prince George's County, MD, with an original principal balance of \$224,000.00, default having occurred under the terms thereof, the Sub. Trustees will sell at public auction at the Circuit Court for Prince George's County, 14735 Main St., Upper Marlboro, MD, 20772 (Duval Wing entrance, located on Main St.), on

MARCH 4, 2025 AT 12:08 PM

ALL THAT FEE SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND, together with any buildings or improvements thereon located in Prince George's County, MD and more fully described in the aforesaid Deed of Trust. The property, and any improvements thereon, will be sold in an "as is" condition and subject to conditions, restrictions and agreements of record affecting the same, if any, and with no warranty of any kind.

Terms of Sale: A deposit of \$16,000 in the form of certified check, cashier's check or money order will be required of the purchaser at time and place of sale. Balance of the purchase price, together with interest on the unpaid purchase money at the current rate contained in the Deed of Trust Note, or any modifications thereto, from the date of sale to the date funds are received by the Sub. Trustees, payable in cash within ten days of final ratification of the sale by the Circuit Court. There will be no abatement of interest due to the purchaser in the event additional funds are tendered before settlement. **TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE FOR THE PURCHASER.** Adjustment of all real property taxes, including agricultural taxes, if applicable, and any and all public and/or private charges or assessments, to the extent such amounts survive foreclosure sale, including water/sewer, ground rent and front foot benefit charges, to be adjusted to date of sale and thereafter assumed by purchaser. Purchaser is responsible for any recapture of homestead tax credit. All transfer taxes and recordation taxes shall be paid by Purchaser. The purchaser shall be responsible for the payment of the ground rent escrow, if required. Condominium fees and/or homeowners association dues, if any, shall be assumed by the purchaser from the date of sale. Purchaser is responsible for obtaining physical possession of the property, and assumes risk of loss or damage to the property from the date of sale. The sale is subject to post-sale audit of the status of the loan with the loan servicer including, but not limited to, determination of whether the borrower entered into any repayment agreement, reinstated or paid off the loan prior to the sale. In any such event, this sale shall be null and void, and the Purchaser's sole remedy, in law or equity, shall be the return of the deposit without interest. If purchaser fails to settle within ten days of ratification, subject to order of court, purchaser agrees that property will be resold and entire deposit retained by Sub. Trustees as liquidated damages for all losses occasioned by the purchaser's default and purchaser shall have no further liability. The purchaser waives personal service of any papers filed in connection with its failure to settle within ten days of ratification and expressly agrees to accept service by first class mail at the address provided by the Purchaser as identified on the Memorandum of Sale. The defaulted purchaser shall not be entitled to any surplus proceeds resulting from said resale even if such surplus results from improvements to the property by said defaulted purchaser. Sub. Trustees will convey either marketable or insurable title. If they cannot deliver one or the other, or if ratification of the sale is denied by the Circuit Court for any reason, the Purchaser's sole remedy, at law or equity, is return of the deposit without interest. (Matter No. 360948-1)

Howard N. Bierman, Carrie M. Ward, et al.,
Substitute Trustees



908 York Road • Towson, MD 21204 • 410.828.4838
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Feb 12,19,26, 2025

0012484846

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BWW Law Group, LLC
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(301) 961-6555

**SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEES' SALE
OF REAL PROPERTY AND
ANY IMPROVEMENTS THEREON**

**2009 TINKER DRIVE
FORT WASHINGTON, MD 20744**


Under a power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust dated May 16, 2008, recorded in Liber 29743, Folio 345 among the Land Records of Prince George's County, MD, with an original principal balance of \$517,500.00, default having occurred under the terms thereof, the Sub. Trustees will sell at public auction at the Circuit Court for Prince George's County, 14735 Main St., Upper Marlboro, MD, 20772 (Duval Wing entrance, located on Main St.), on

MARCH 4, 2025 AT 12:02 PM

ALL THAT FEE SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND, together with any buildings or improvements thereon located in Prince George's County, MD and more fully described in the aforesaid Deed of Trust. The property, and any improvements thereon, will be sold in an "as is" condition and subject to conditions, restrictions and agreements of record affecting the same, if any, and with no warranty of any kind.

Terms of Sale: A deposit of \$23,000 in the form of certified check, cashier's check or money order will be required of the purchaser at time and place of sale. Balance of the purchase price, together with interest on the unpaid purchase money at the current rate contained in the Deed of Trust Note, or any modifications thereto, from the date of sale to the date funds are received by the Sub. Trustees, payable in cash within ten days of final ratification of the sale by the Circuit Court. There will be no abatement of interest due to the purchaser in the event additional funds are tendered before settlement. **TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE FOR THE PURCHASER.** Adjustment of all real property taxes, including agricultural taxes, if applicable, and any and all public and/or private charges or assessments, to the extent such amounts survive foreclosure sale, including water/sewer, ground rent and front foot benefit charges, to be adjusted to date of sale and thereafter assumed by purchaser. Purchaser is responsible for any recapture of homestead tax credit. All transfer taxes and recordation taxes shall be paid by Purchaser. The purchaser shall be responsible for the payment of the ground rent escrow, if required. Condominium fees and/or homeowners association dues, if any, shall be assumed by the purchaser from the date of sale. Purchaser is responsible for obtaining physical possession of the property, and assumes risk of loss or damage to the property from the date of sale. The sale is subject to post-sale audit of the status of the loan with the loan servicer including, but not limited to, determination of whether the borrower entered into any repayment agreement, reinstated or paid off the loan prior to the sale. In any such event, this sale shall be null and void, and the Purchaser's sole remedy, in law or equity, shall be the return of the deposit without interest. If purchaser fails to settle within ten days of ratification, subject to order of court, purchaser agrees that property will be resold and entire deposit retained by Sub. Trustees as liquidated damages for all losses occasioned by the purchaser's default and purchaser shall have no further liability. The purchaser waives personal service of any papers filed in connection with its failure to settle within ten days of ratification and expressly agrees to accept service by first class mail at the address provided by the Purchaser as identified on the Memorandum of Sale. The defaulted purchaser shall not be entitled to any surplus proceeds resulting from said resale even if such surplus results from improvements to the property by said defaulted purchaser. Sub. Trustees will convey either marketable or insurable title. If they cannot deliver one or the other, or if ratification of the sale is denied by the Circuit Court for any reason, the Purchaser's sole remedy, at law or equity, is return of the deposit without interest. (Matter No. 371906-1)

Howard N. Bierman, Carrie M. Ward, et al.,
Substitute Trustees



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Feb 12,19,26, 2025

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**SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEES' SALE
OF REAL PROPERTY AND
ANY IMPROVEMENTS THEREON**

**4006 WINDING WATERS TERRACE
UPPER MARLBORO, MD 20772**

Under a power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust dated December 31, 2019, recorded in Liber 43070, Folio 39 among the Land Records of Prince George's County, MD, with an original principal balance of \$473,264.00, default having occurred under the terms thereof, the Sub. Trustees will sell at public auction at the Circuit Court for Prince George's County, 14735 Main St., Upper Marlboro, MD, 20772 (Duval Wing entrance, located on Main St.), on

MARCH 4, 2025 AT 12:04 PM

ALL THAT FEE SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND, together with any buildings or improvements thereon located in Prince George's County, MD and more fully described in the aforesaid Deed of Trust. The property, and any improvements thereon, will be sold in an "as is" condition and subject to conditions, restrictions and agreements of record affecting the same, if any, and with no warranty of any kind.

Terms of Sale: A deposit of \$47,000 in the form of certified check, cashier's check or money order will be required of the purchaser at time and place of sale. Balance of the purchase price, together with interest on the unpaid purchase money at the current rate contained in the Deed of Trust Note, or any modifications thereto, from the date of sale to the date funds are received by the Sub. Trustees, payable in cash within ten days of final ratification of the sale by the Circuit Court. There will be no abatement of interest due to the purchaser in the event additional funds are tendered before settlement. **TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE FOR THE PURCHASER.** Adjustment of all real property taxes, including agricultural taxes, if applicable, and any and all public and/or private charges or assessments, to the extent such amounts survive foreclosure sale, including water/sewer, ground rent and front foot benefit charges, to be adjusted to date of sale and thereafter assumed by purchaser. Purchaser is responsible for any recapture of homestead tax credit. All transfer taxes and recordation taxes shall be paid by Purchaser. The purchaser shall be responsible for the payment of the ground rent escrow, if required. Condominium fees and/or homeowners association dues, if any, shall be assumed by the purchaser from the date of sale. Purchaser is responsible for obtaining physical possession of the property, and assumes risk of loss or damage to the property from the date of sale. The sale is subject to post-sale audit of the status of the loan with the loan servicer including, but not limited to, determination of whether the borrower entered into any repayment agreement, reinstated or paid off the loan prior to the sale. In any such event, this sale shall be null and void, and the Purchaser's sole remedy, in law or equity, shall be the return of the deposit without interest. If purchaser fails to settle within ten days of ratification, subject to order of court, purchaser agrees that property will be resold and entire deposit retained by Sub. Trustees as liquidated damages for all losses occasioned by the purchaser's default and purchaser shall have no further liability. The purchaser waives personal service of any papers filed in connection with its failure to settle within ten days of ratification and expressly agrees to accept service by first class mail at the address provided by the Purchaser as identified on the Memorandum of Sale. The defaulted purchaser shall not be entitled to any surplus proceeds resulting from said resale even if such surplus results from improvements to the property by said defaulted purchaser. Sub. Trustees will convey either marketable or insurable title. If they cannot deliver one or the other, or if ratification of the sale is denied by the Circuit Court for any reason, the Purchaser's sole remedy, at law or equity, is return of the deposit without interest. (Matter No. 358622-1)

Howard N. Bierman, Carrie M. Ward, et al.,
Substitute Trustees



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Feb 12,19,26, 2025

0012484844

CLASSIFIED • NOTICES • Trustee Sales—MD **D7**

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**SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEES' SALE
OF REAL PROPERTY AND
ANY IMPROVEMENTS THEREON**

**2337 BARKLEY PLACE
DISTRICT HEIGHTS, MD 20747**


Under a power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust dated September 27, 2005, recorded in Liber 23506, Folio 589 among the Land Records of Prince George's County, MD, with an original principal balance of \$199,750.00, default having occurred under the terms thereof, the Sub. Trustees will sell at public auction at the Circuit Court for Prince George's County, 14735 Main St., Upper Marlboro, MD, 20772 (Duval Wing entrance, located on Main St.), on

MARCH 4, 2025 AT 11:58 AM

ALL THAT FEE SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND, together with any buildings or improvements thereon located in Prince George's County, MD and more fully described in the aforesaid Deed of Trust. The property, and any improvements thereon, will be sold in an "as is" condition and subject to conditions, restrictions and agreements of record affecting the same, if any, and with no warranty of any kind.

Terms of Sale: A deposit of \$17,000 in the form of certified check, cashier's check or money order will be required of the purchaser at time and place of sale. Balance of the purchase price, together with interest on the unpaid purchase money at the current rate contained in the Deed of Trust Note, or any modifications thereto, from the date of sale to the date funds are received by the Sub. Trustees, payable in cash within ten days of final ratification of the sale by the Circuit Court. There will be no abatement of interest due to the purchaser in the event additional funds are tendered before settlement. **TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE FOR THE PURCHASER.** Adjustment of all real property taxes, including agricultural taxes, if applicable, and any and all public and/or private charges or assessments, to the extent such amounts survive foreclosure sale, including water/sewer, ground rent and front foot benefit charges, to be adjusted to date of sale and thereafter assumed by purchaser. Purchaser is responsible for any recapture of homestead tax credit. All transfer taxes and recordation taxes shall be paid by Purchaser. The purchaser shall be responsible for the payment of the ground rent escrow, if required. Condominium fees and/or homeowners association dues, if any, shall be assumed by the purchaser from the date of sale. Purchaser is responsible for obtaining physical possession of the property, and assumes risk of loss or damage to the property from the date of sale. The sale is subject to post-sale audit of the status of the loan with the loan servicer including, but not limited to, determination of whether the borrower entered into any repayment agreement, reinstated or paid off the loan prior to the sale. In any such event, this sale shall be null and void, and the Purchaser's sole remedy, in law or equity, shall be the return of the deposit without interest. If purchaser fails to settle within ten days of ratification, subject to order of court, purchaser agrees that property will be resold and entire deposit retained by Sub. Trustees as liquidated damages for all losses occasioned by the purchaser's default and purchaser shall have no further liability. The purchaser waives personal service of any papers filed in connection with its failure to settle within ten days of ratification and expressly agrees to accept service by first class mail at the address provided by the Purchaser as identified on the Memorandum of Sale. The defaulted purchaser shall not be entitled to any surplus proceeds resulting from said resale even if such surplus results from improvements to the property by said defaulted purchaser. Sub. Trustees will convey either marketable or insurable title. If they cannot deliver one or the other, or if ratification of the sale is denied by the Circuit Court for any reason, the Purchaser's sole remedy, at law or equity, is return of the deposit without interest. (Matter No. 302798-3)

Howard N. Bierman, Carrie M. Ward, et al.,
Substitute Trustees



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Feb 12,19,26, 2025

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**SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEES' SALE
OF REAL PROPERTY AND
ANY IMPROVEMENTS THEREON**

**905 BALSANTREE PLACE
DISTRICT HEIGHTS, MD 20743**

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**SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEES' SALE
OF REAL PROPERTY AND
ANY IMPROVEMENTS THEREON**

**4714 LAKE ONTARIO WAY
BOWIE, MD 20720**

Under a power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust dated November 8, 2017, recorded in Liber 29268, Folio 589 among the Land Records of Prince George's County, MD, with an original principal balance of \$100,000.00, default having occurred under the terms thereof, the Sub. Trustees will sell at public auction at the Circuit Court for Prince George's County, 14735 Main St., Upper Marlboro, MD, 20772 (Duval Wing entrance, located on Main St.), on

MARCH 4, 2025 AT 11:54 AM

ALL THAT FEE SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND, together with any buildings or improvements thereon located in Prince George's County, MD and more fully described in the aforesaid Deed of Trust.

The property, and any improvements thereon, will be sold in an "as is" condition and subject to conditions, restrictions and agreements of record affecting the same, if any, and with no warranty of any kind. The property will be sold subject to a prior mortgage, the amount to be announced at the time of sale, if made available to the Substitute Trustees.

Terms of Sale: A deposit of \$5,000 in the form of certified check, cashier's check or money order will be required of the purchaser at time and place of sale. Balance of the purchase price, together with interest on the unpaid purchase money at the current rate contained in the Deed of Trust Note, or any modifications thereto, from the date of sale to the date funds are received by the Sub. Trustees, payable in cash within ten days of final ratification of the sale by the Circuit Court. There will be no abatement of interest due to the purchaser in the event additional funds are tendered before settlement. TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE FOR THE PURCHASER. Adjustment of all real property taxes, including agricultural taxes, if applicable, and any and all public and/or private charges or assessments, to the extent such amounts survive foreclosure sale, including water/sewer, ground rent and front foot benefit charges, to be adjusted to date of sale and thereafter assumed by purchaser. Purchaser is responsible for any recapture of homestead tax credit. All transfer taxes and recordation taxes shall be paid by Purchaser. The purchaser shall be responsible for the payment of the ground rent escrow, if required. Condominium fees and/or homeowners association dues, if any, shall be assumed by the purchaser from the date of sale. Purchaser is responsible for obtaining physical possession of the property, and assumes risk of loss or damage to the property from the date of sale. The sale is subject to post-sale audit of the status of the loan with the loan servicer including, but not limited to, determination of whether the borrower entered into any repayment agreement, reinstated or paid off the loan prior to the sale. In any such event, this sale shall be null and void, and the Purchaser's sole remedy, in law or equity, shall be the return of the deposit without interest. If purchaser fails to settle within ten days of ratification, subject to order of court, purchaser agrees that property will be resold and entire deposit retained by Sub. Trustees as liquidated damages for all losses occasioned by the purchaser's default and purchaser shall have no further liability. The purchaser waives personal service of any papers filed in connection with its failure to settle within ten days of ratification and expressly agrees to accept service by first class mail at the address provided by the Purchaser as identified on the Memorandum of Sale. The defaulted purchaser shall not be entitled to any surplus proceeds resulting from said resale even if such surplus results from improvements to the property by said defaulted purchaser. Sub. Trustees will convey either marketable or insurable title. If they cannot deliver one or the other, or if ratification of the sale is denied by the Circuit Court for any reason, the Purchaser's sole remedy, at law or equity, is return of the deposit without interest. (Matter No. 354386-1)

Howard N. Bierman, Carrie M. Ward, et. al.,
Substitute Trustees



Feb 12,19,26, 2025 0012484837

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**SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEES' SALE
OF REAL PROPERTY AND
ANY IMPROVEMENTS THEREON**

**2403 GREELEY PLACE
LANDOVER, MD 20785**

Under a power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust dated August 13, 2021, recorded in Liber 46324, Folio 263 among the Land Records of Prince George's County, MD, with an original principal balance of \$415,500.00, default having occurred under the terms thereof, the Sub. Trustees will sell at public auction at the Circuit Court for Prince George's County, 14735 Main St., Upper Marlboro, MD, 20772 (Duval Wing entrance, located on Main St.), on

MARCH 4, 2025 AT 11:56 AM

ALL THAT FEE SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND, together with any buildings or improvements thereon located in Prince George's County, MD and more fully described in the aforesaid Deed of Trust.

The property, and any improvements thereon, will be sold in an "as is" condition and subject to conditions, restrictions and agreements of record affecting the same, if any, and with no warranty of any kind.

Terms of Sale: A deposit of \$17,000 in the form of certified check, cashier's check or money order will be required of the purchaser at time and place of sale. Balance of the purchase price, together with interest on the unpaid purchase money at the current rate contained in the Deed of Trust Note, or any modifications thereto, from the date of sale to the date funds are received by the Sub. Trustees, payable in cash within ten days of final ratification of the sale by the Circuit Court. There will be no abatement of interest due to the purchaser in the event additional funds are tendered before settlement. TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE FOR THE PURCHASER. Adjustment of all real property taxes, including agricultural taxes, if applicable, and any and all public and/or private charges or assessments, to the extent such amounts survive foreclosure sale, including water/sewer, ground rent and front foot benefit charges, to be adjusted to date of sale and thereafter assumed by purchaser. Purchaser is responsible for any recapture of homestead tax credit. All transfer taxes and recordation taxes shall be paid by Purchaser. The purchaser shall be responsible for the payment of the ground rent escrow, if required. Condominium fees and/or homeowners association dues, if any, shall be assumed by the purchaser from the date of sale. Purchaser is responsible for obtaining physical possession of the property, and assumes risk of loss or damage to the property from the date of sale. The sale is subject to post-sale audit of the status of the loan with the loan servicer including, but not limited to, determination of whether the borrower entered into any repayment agreement, reinstated or paid off the loan prior to the sale. In any such event, this sale shall be null and void, and the Purchaser's sole remedy, in law or equity, shall be the return of the deposit without interest. If purchaser fails to settle within ten days of ratification, subject to order of court, purchaser agrees that property will be resold and entire deposit retained by Sub. Trustees as liquidated damages for all losses occasioned by the purchaser's default and purchaser shall have no further liability. The purchaser waives personal service of any papers filed in connection with its failure to settle within ten days of ratification and expressly agrees to accept service by first class mail at the address provided by the Purchaser as identified on the Memorandum of Sale. The defaulted purchaser shall not be entitled to any surplus proceeds resulting from said resale even if such surplus results from improvements to the property by said defaulted purchaser. Sub. Trustees will convey either marketable or insurable title. If they cannot deliver one or the other, or if ratification of the sale is denied by the Circuit Court for any reason, the Purchaser's sole remedy, at law or equity, is return of the deposit without interest. (Matter No. 372153-1)

Howard N. Bierman, Carrie M. Ward, et. al.,
Substitute Trustees



Feb 12,19,26, 2025 0012484839

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**SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEES' SALE
OF REAL PROPERTY AND
ANY IMPROVEMENTS THEREON**

**4601 MARGIE COURT
LANHAM, MD 20706**

Under a power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust dated April 13, 2017, recorded in Liber 32725, Folio 149 among the Land Records of Prince George's County, MD, with an original principal balance of \$251,811.00, default having occurred under the terms thereof, the Sub. Trustees will sell at public auction at the Circuit Court for Prince George's County, 14735 Main St., Upper Marlboro, MD, 20772 (Duval Wing entrance, located on Main St.), on

MARCH 4, 2025 AT 11:50 AM

ALL THAT FEE SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND, together with any buildings or improvements thereon located in Prince George's County, MD and more fully described in the aforesaid Deed of Trust.

The property, and any improvements thereon, will be sold in an "as is" condition and subject to conditions, restrictions and agreements of record affecting the same, if any, and with no warranty of any kind.

Terms of Sale: A deposit of \$32,000 in the form of certified check, cashier's check or money order will be required of the purchaser at time and place of sale. Balance of the purchase price, together with interest on the unpaid purchase money at the current rate contained in the Deed of Trust Note, or any modifications thereto, from the date of sale to the date funds are received by the Sub. Trustees, payable in cash within ten days of final ratification of the sale by the Circuit Court. There will be no abatement of interest due to the purchaser in the event additional funds are tendered before settlement. TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE FOR THE PURCHASER. Adjustment of all real property taxes, including agricultural taxes, if applicable, and any and all public and/or private charges or assessments, to the extent such amounts survive foreclosure sale, including water/sewer, ground rent and front foot benefit charges, to be adjusted to date of sale and thereafter assumed by purchaser. Purchaser is responsible for any recapture of homestead tax credit. All transfer taxes and recordation taxes shall be paid by Purchaser. The purchaser shall be responsible for the payment of the ground rent escrow, if required. Condominium fees and/or homeowners association dues, if any, shall be assumed by the purchaser from the date of sale. Purchaser is responsible for obtaining physical possession of the property, and assumes risk of loss or damage to the property from the date of sale. The sale is subject to post-sale audit of the status of the loan with the loan servicer including, but not limited to, determination of whether the borrower entered into any repayment agreement, reinstated or paid off the loan prior to the sale. In any such event, this sale shall be null and void, and the Purchaser's sole remedy, in law or equity, shall be the return of the deposit without interest. If purchaser fails to settle within ten days of ratification, subject to order of court, purchaser agrees that property will be resold and entire deposit retained by Sub. Trustees as liquidated damages for all losses occasioned by the purchaser's default and purchaser shall have no further liability. The purchaser waives personal service of any papers filed in connection with its failure to settle within ten days of ratification and expressly agrees to accept service by first class mail at the address provided by the Purchaser as identified on the Memorandum of Sale. The defaulted purchaser shall not be entitled to any surplus proceeds resulting from said resale even if such surplus results from improvements to the property by said defaulted purchaser. Sub. Trustees will convey either marketable or insurable title. If they cannot deliver one or the other, or if ratification of the sale is denied by the Circuit Court for any reason, the Purchaser's sole remedy, at law or equity, is return of the deposit without interest. (Matter No. 360308-2)

Howard N. Bierman, Carrie M. Ward, et. al.,
Substitute Trustees



Feb 12,19,26, 2025 0012484835

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**SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEES' SALE
OF REAL PROPERTY AND
ANY IMPROVEMENTS THEREON**

**14107 KYDAN COURT
BRANDYWINE, MD 20613**

Under a power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust dated June 8, 2007, recorded in Liber 28781, Folio 146 among the Land Records of Prince George's County, MD, with an original principal balance of \$359,900.00, default having occurred under the terms thereof, the Sub. Trustees will sell at public auction at the Circuit Court for Prince George's County, 14735 Main St., Upper Marlboro, MD, 20772 (Duval Wing entrance, located on Main St.), on

MARCH 4, 2025 AT 11:52 AM

ALL THAT FEE SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND, together with any buildings or improvements thereon located in Prince George's County, MD and more fully described in the aforesaid Deed of Trust.

The property, and any improvements thereon, will be sold in an "as is" condition and subject to conditions, restrictions and agreements of record affecting the same, if any, and with no warranty of any kind.

Terms of Sale: A deposit of \$51,000 in the form of certified check, cashier's check or money order will be required of the purchaser at time and place of sale. Balance of the purchase price, together with interest on the unpaid purchase money at the current rate contained in the Deed of Trust Note, or any modifications thereto, from the date of sale to the date funds are received by the Sub. Trustees, payable in cash within ten days of final ratification of the sale by the Circuit Court. There will be no abatement of interest due to the purchaser in the event additional funds are tendered before settlement. TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE FOR THE PURCHASER. Adjustment of all real property taxes, including agricultural taxes, if applicable, and any and all public and/or private charges or assessments, to the extent such amounts survive foreclosure sale, including water/sewer, ground rent and front foot benefit charges, to be adjusted to date of sale and thereafter assumed by purchaser. Purchaser is responsible for any recapture of homestead tax credit. All transfer taxes and recordation taxes shall be paid by Purchaser. The purchaser shall be responsible for the payment of the ground rent escrow, if required. Condominium fees and/or homeowners association dues, if any, shall be assumed by the purchaser from the date of sale. Purchaser is responsible for obtaining physical possession of the property, and assumes risk of loss or damage to the property from the date of sale. The sale is subject to post-sale audit of the status of the loan with the loan servicer including, but not limited to, determination of whether the borrower entered into any repayment agreement, reinstated or paid off the loan prior to the sale. In any such event, this sale shall be null and void, and the Purchaser's sole remedy, in law or equity, shall be the return of the deposit without interest. If purchaser fails to settle within ten days of ratification, subject to order of court, purchaser agrees that property will be resold and entire deposit retained by Sub. Trustees as liquidated damages for all losses occasioned by the purchaser's default and purchaser shall have no further liability. The purchaser waives personal service of any papers filed in connection with its failure to settle within ten days of ratification and expressly agrees to accept service by first class mail at the address provided by the Purchaser as identified on the Memorandum of Sale. The defaulted purchaser shall not be entitled to any surplus proceeds resulting from said resale even if such surplus results from improvements to the property by said defaulted purchaser. Sub. Trustees will convey either marketable or insurable title. If they cannot deliver one or the other, or if ratification of the sale is denied by the Circuit Court for any reason, the Purchaser's sole remedy, at law or equity, is return of the deposit without interest. (Matter No. 200232-3)

Howard N. Bierman, Carrie M. Ward, et. al.,
Substitute Trustees



Feb 12,19,26, 2025 0012484836

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TRUSTEE'S SALE
9200 Edwards Way #509, Hyattsville, MD 20783

Trustee's Sale of valuable fee simple property improved by premises known as 9200 Edwards Way #509, Hyattsville, MD 20783. By virtue of the power and authority contained in a Deed of Trust, dated October 9, 2006, and recorded in Liber 26454 at Page 355 among the land records of the County of Prince George's, in the original principal amount of \$234,000.00. Upon default and request for sale, the undersigned trustees will offer for sale at public auction at the Courthouse for the COUNTY OF PRINCE GEORGE'S, at the front of the Duval Wing of the Courthouse Complex located at 14735 Main Street, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772, on **March 4, 2025 at 2:00 PM**, all that property described in said Deed of Trust including but not limited to:

Tax ID# 17-1961960

Said property is in fee simple and is improved by a dwelling and is sold in "as is condition" and subject to all superior covenants, conditions, liens, restrictions, easement, rights-of-way, as may affect same, if any.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of 10% of the sale price, cash or certified funds shall be required at the time of sale. The balance of the purchase price with interest at 6.00% per annum from the date of sale to the date of payment will be paid within TEN DAYS after the final ratification of the sale.

Adjustments on all taxes, public charges and special or regular assessments will be made as of the date of sale and thereafter assumed by purchaser.

If applicable, condominium and/or homeowners association dues and assessments that may become due after the time of sale will be the responsibility of the purchaser. Title examination, conveyancing, state revenue stamps, transfer taxes, title insurance, and all other costs incident to settlement are to be paid by the purchaser. Time is of the essence for the purchaser, otherwise the deposit will be forfeited and the property may be resold at risk and costs of the defaulting purchaser. If the sale is not ratified or if the Substitute Trustees are unable to convey marketable title in accord with these terms of sale, the purchaser's only remedy is the return of the deposit. Trustee's File No. 22-291952.

William M. Savage, et al., Substitute Trustees.

LOGS LEGAL GROUP LLP,
Mailing Address: 10130 Perimeter Parkway, Suite 400,
Charlotte, North Carolina 28216
(410) 769-9797



Feb 12,19,26, 2025 0012484349

TRUSTEE'S SALE
4084 Silver Park Terrace, Suitland, MD 20746

Trustee's Sale of valuable fee simple property improved by premises known as 4084 Silver Park Terrace, Suitland, MD 20746. By virtue of the power and authority contained in a Deed of Trust, dated December 14, 2007, and recorded in Liber 29210 at Page 339 among the land records of the County of Prince George's, in the original principal amount of \$240,000.00. Upon default and request for sale, the undersigned trustees will offer for sale at public auction at the Courthouse for the COUNTY OF PRINCE GEORGE'S, at the front of the Duval Wing of the Courthouse Complex located at 14735 Main Street, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772, on **March 4, 2025 at 2:00 PM**, all that property described in said Deed of Trust including but not limited to:

Tax ID# 06-0484188

Said property is in fee simple and is improved by a dwelling and is sold in "as is condition" and subject to all superior covenants, conditions, liens, restrictions, easement, rights-of-way, as may affect same, if any.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of 10% of the sale price, cash or certified funds shall be required at the time of sale. The balance of the purchase price with interest at 6.00% per annum from the date of sale to the date of payment will be paid within TEN DAYS after the final ratification of the sale.

Adjustments on all taxes, public charges and special or regular assessments will be made as of the date of sale and thereafter assumed by purchaser.

If applicable, condominium and/or homeowners association dues and assessments that may become due after the time of sale will be the responsibility of the purchaser. Title examination, conveyancing, state revenue stamps, transfer taxes, title insurance, and all other costs incident to settlement are to be paid by the purchaser. Time is of the essence for the purchaser, otherwise the deposit will be forfeited and the property may be resold at risk and costs of the defaulting purchaser. If the sale is not ratified or if the Substitute Trustees are unable to convey marketable title in accord with these terms of sale, the purchaser's only remedy is the return of the deposit. Trustee's File No. 23-293919.

William M. Savage, et al., Substitute Trustees.

LOGS LEGAL GROUP LLP,
Mailing Address: 10130 Perimeter Parkway, Suite 400,
Charlotte, North Carolina 28216
(410) 769-9797



Feb 12,19,26, 2025 0012483969

TRUSTEE'S SALE
4410 Oglethorpe St, Apt 416, Hyattsville, MD 20781

Trustee's Sale of valuable fee simple property improved by premises known as 4410 Oglethorpe St, Apt 416, Hyattsville, MD 20781. By virtue of the power and authority contained in a Deed of Trust, dated February 12, 2010, and recorded in Liber 32938 at Page 94 among the land records of the County of Prince George's, in the original principal amount of \$142,050.00. Upon default and request for sale, the undersigned trustees will offer for sale at public auction at the Courthouse for the COUNTY OF PRINCE GEORGE'S, at the front of the Duval Wing of the Courthouse Complex located at 14735 Main Street, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772, on **March 4, 2025 at 2:00 PM**, all that property described in said Deed of Trust including but not limited to:

Tax ID# 16-1814516

Said property is in fee simple and is improved by a dwelling and is sold in "as is condition" and subject to all superior covenants, conditions, liens, restrictions, easement, rights-of-way, as may affect same, if any.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of 10% of the sale price, cash or certified funds shall be required at the time of sale. The balance of the purchase price with interest at 6.00% per annum from the date of sale to the date of payment will be paid within TEN DAYS after the final ratification of the sale.

Adjustments on all taxes, public charges and special or regular assessments will be made as of the date of sale and thereafter assumed by purchaser.

If applicable, condominium and/or homeowners association dues and assessments that may become due after the time of sale will be the responsibility of the purchaser. Title examination, conveyancing, state revenue stamps, transfer taxes, title insurance, and all other costs incident to settlement are to be paid by the purchaser. Time is of the essence for the purchaser, otherwise the deposit will be forfeited and the property may be resold at risk and costs of the defaulting purchaser. If the sale is not ratified or if the Substitute Trustees are unable to convey marketable title in accord with these terms of sale, the purchaser's only remedy is the return of the deposit. Trustee's File No. 23-293263.

William M. Savage, et al., Substitute Trustees.

LOGS LEGAL GROUP LLP,
Mailing Address: 10130 Perimeter Parkway, Suite 400,
Charlotte, North Carolina 28216
(410) 769-9797



Feb 12,19,26, 2025 0012484200

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Rosenberg & Associates, LLC
4340 East West Highway, Suite 600
Bethesda, MD 20814
(301) 907-8000
www.rosenberg-assoc.com

**SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEES' SALE
OF IMPROVED REAL PROPERTY**

**2412 LAKE AVENUE
CHEVERLY, MD 20785**

Under a power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust from David A. Carlos dated September 26, 2020 and recorded in Liber 45030, folio 24 among the Land Records of Prince George's County, MD, default having occurred under the terms thereof, the Trustees will sell at public auction at the Circuit Court for Prince George's County, 14735 Main St., Upper Marlboro, MD, 20772 (Duval Wing entrance, located on Main St.), on

FEBRUARY 25, 2025 AT 11:05 AM

ALL THAT FEE SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND, together with the buildings and improvements thereon situated in Prince George's County, MD and more fully described in the aforesaid Deed of Trust. Tax ID #02-0144113.

The property, which is improved by a dwelling, will be sold in an "as is" condition and subject to conditions, restrictions and agreements of record affecting the same, if any, and with no warranty of any kind.

Terms of Sale: A deposit of \$20,000 in the form of certified check, cashier's check or money order will be required of the purchaser at time and place of sale. Balance of the purchase price to be paid in cash within ten days of final ratification of sale by the Circuit Court for Prince George's County. Interest to be paid on the unpaid purchase money at the rate pursuant to the Deed of Trust Note from the date of sale to the date funds are received in the office of the Trustees. There will be no abatement of interest in the event additional funds are tendered before settlement or if settlement is delayed for any reason. The noteholder shall not be obligated to pay interest if it is the purchaser. TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE FOR THE PURCHASER. There will be no reduction of interest due to overpayment of deposit. Adjustment of all real property taxes (excluding recapture of previously reduced or exempt taxes) and any other public charges or assessments, to the extent such amounts survive foreclosure sale, including water/sewer charges, and ground rent to be adjusted to date of sale and paid at execution of the deed, except where the secured party is the purchaser, and thereafter assumed by the purchaser. All due and/or unpaid private utility, water and sewer facilities charges, condo/HOA assessments and Columbia Assoc. assessments, to the extent such amount survive foreclosure sale, are payable by the purchaser without adjustment. Cost of all documentary stamps, transfer taxes, recaptured taxes (including but not limited to agricultural taxes), and settlement expenses shall be borne by the purchaser. Purchaser shall be responsible for obtaining physical possession of the property. Purchaser assumes the risk of loss or damage to the property from the date of sale forward. Additional terms to be announced at the time of sale. If the Trustees are unable to convey good and marketable title, the purchaser's sole remedy in law and equity shall be limited to a refund of the deposit without interest. If the purchaser fails to go to settlement, subject to order of the court, the entire deposit (including any amount received over the advertised deposit amount) shall be forfeited to the Trustees as liquidated damages for all losses occasioned by the purchaser's default and purchaser shall have no further liability. In the event of a resale, the defaulting purchaser shall not be entitled to receive the surplus, if any, even if such surplus results from improvements to the property by said defaulting purchaser and the defaulting purchaser shall be liable to the Trustees and secured party for reasonable attorney's fees and expenses incurred in connection with all litigation involving the property or the proceeds of the resale. Defaulting purchaser waives personal service of any document filed in connection with such a motion on him, herself and/or any principal or corporate designee, and expressly agrees to accept service of any such document by regular mail directed to the address provided by said purchaser at the time of the foreclosure auction. Trustees' file number 24-003380-MD-F-1.

Diane S. Rosenberg, Mark D. Meyer, et al., Trustees



Feb 5,12,19, 2025 0012483913

Rosenberg & Associates, LLC
4340 East West Highway, Suite 600
Bethesda, MD 20814
(301) 907-8000
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**SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEES' SALE
OF IMPROVED REAL PROPERTY**

**9302 STONEY HARBOR DRIVE
FORT WASHINGTON, MD 20744**

Under a power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust from Adeel A. Shah and Musarrat A. Shah dated January 29, 2007 and recorded in Liber 28119, folio 555 among the Land Records of Prince George's County, MD, default having occurred under the terms thereof, the Trustees will sell at public auction at the Circuit Court for Prince George's County, 14735 Main St., Upper Marlboro, MD, 20772 (Duval Wing entrance, located on Main St.), on

MARCH 4, 2025 AT 11:45 AM

ALL THAT FEE SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND, together with the buildings and improvements thereon situated in Prince George's County, MD and more fully described in the aforesaid Deed of Trust. Tax ID #09-3509866.

The property, which is improved by a dwelling, will be sold in an "as is" condition and subject to conditions, restrictions and agreements of record affecting the same, if any, and with no warranty of any kind.

Terms of Sale: A deposit of \$30,000 in the form of certified check, cashier's check or money order will be required of the purchaser at time and place of sale. Balance of the purchase price to be paid in cash within ten days of final ratification of sale by the Circuit Court for Prince George's County. Interest to be paid on the unpaid purchase money at the rate pursuant to the Deed of Trust Note from the date of sale to the date funds are received in the office of the Trustees. There will be no abatement of interest in the event additional funds are tendered before settlement or if settlement is delayed for any reason. The noteholder shall not be obligated to pay interest if it is the purchaser. TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE FOR THE PURCHASER. There will be no reduction of interest due to overpayment of deposit. Adjustment of all real property taxes (excluding recapture of previously reduced or exempt taxes) and any other public charges or assessments, to the extent such amounts survive foreclosure sale, including water/sewer charges, and ground rent to be adjusted to date of sale and paid at execution of the deed, except where the secured party is the purchaser, and thereafter assumed by the purchaser. All due and/or unpaid private utility, water and sewer facilities charges, condo/HOA assessments and Columbia Assoc. assessments, to the extent such amount survive foreclosure sale, are payable by the purchaser without adjustment. Cost of all documentary stamps, transfer taxes, recaptured taxes (including but not limited to agricultural taxes), and settlement expenses shall be borne by the purchaser. Purchaser shall be responsible for obtaining physical possession of the property. Purchaser assumes the risk of loss or damage to the property from the date of sale forward. Additional terms to be announced at the time of sale. If the Trustees are unable to convey good and marketable title, the purchaser's sole remedy in law and equity shall be limited to a refund of the deposit without interest. If the purchaser fails to go to settlement, subject to order of the court, the entire deposit (including any amount received over the advertised deposit amount) shall be forfeited to the Trustees as liquidated damages for all losses occasioned by the purchaser's default and purchaser shall have no further liability. In the event of a resale, the defaulting purchaser shall not be entitled to receive the surplus, if any, even if such surplus results from improvements to the property by said defaulting purchaser and the defaulting purchaser shall be liable to the Trustees and secured party for reasonable attorney's fees and expenses incurred in connection with all litigation involving the property or the proceeds of the resale. Defaulting purchaser waives personal service of any document filed in connection with such a motion on him, herself and/or any principal or corporate designee, and expressly agrees to accept service of any such document by regular mail directed to the address provided by said purchaser at the time of the foreclosure auction. Trustees' file number 22-002493-MD-F-1. The property will be sold subject to a 120 day right of redemption by the Internal Revenue Service.

Diane S. Rosenberg, Mark D. Meyer, et al., Trustees



Feb 12,19,26, 2025 0012483943

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BWW Law Group, LLC
6003 Executive Blvd., Suite 101
Rockville, MD 20852
(301) 961-6555

**SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEES' SALE
OF REAL PROPERTY AND
ANY IMPROVEMENTS THEREON**

**10114 RUNNING BROOK LANE
UPPER MARLBORO, MD 20772**

Under a power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust dated August 2, 2006, recorded in Liber 27077, Folio 267 among the Land Records of Prince George's County, MD, with an original principal balance of \$311,500.00, default having occurred under the terms thereof, the Sub. Trustees will sell at public auction at the Circuit Court for Prince George's County, 14735 Main St., Upper Marlboro, MD, 20772 (Duval Wing entrance, located on Main St.), on

FEBRUARY 25, 2025 AT 11:29 AM

ALL THAT FEE SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND, together with any buildings or improvements thereon located in Prince George's County, MD and more fully described in the aforesaid Deed of Trust.

The property, and any improvements thereon, will be sold in an "as is" condition and subject to conditions, restrictions and agreements of record affecting the same, if any, and with no warranty of any kind.

Terms of Sale: A deposit of \$26,000 in the form of certified check, cashier's check or money order will be required of the purchaser at time and place of sale. Balance of the purchase price, together with interest on the unpaid purchase money at the current rate contained in the Deed of Trust Note, or any modifications thereto, from the date of sale to the date funds are received by the Sub. Trustees, payable in cash within ten days of final ratification of the sale by the Circuit Court. There will be no abatement of interest due to the purchaser in the event additional funds are tendered before settlement. TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE FOR THE PURCHASER. Adjustment of all real property taxes, including agricultural taxes, if applicable, and any and all public and/or private charges or assessments, to the extent such amounts survive foreclosure sale, including water/sewer, ground rent and front foot benefit charges, to be adjusted to date of sale and thereafter assumed by purchaser. Purchaser is responsible for any recapture of homestead tax credit. All transfer taxes and recordation taxes shall be paid by Purchaser. The purchaser shall be responsible for the payment of the ground rent escrow, if required. Condominium fees and/or homeowners association dues, if any, shall be assumed by the purchaser from the date of sale. Purchaser is responsible for obtaining physical possession of the property, and assumes risk of loss or damage to the property from the date of sale. The sale is subject to post-sale audit of the status of the loan with the loan servicer including, but not limited to, determination of whether the borrower entered into any repayment agreement, reinstated or paid off the loan prior to the sale. In any such event, this sale shall be null and void

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2025

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**SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEES' SALE
OF REAL PROPERTY AND C
ANY IMPROVEMENTS THEREON**

**6419 FOREST ROAD
LANDOVER A/R/T/A CHEVERLY, MD 20785**

Under a power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust dated April 27, 2006, recorded in Liber 25325, Folio 27 among the Land Records of Prince George's County, MD, with an original principal balance of \$249,000.00, default having occurred under the terms thereof, the Sub. Trustees will sell at public auction at the Circuit Court for Prince George's County, 14735 Main St., Upper Marlboro, MD, 20772 (Duval Wing entrance, located on Main St.), on

FEBRUARY 25, 2025 AT 11:25 AM

ALL THAT FEE SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND, together with any buildings or improvements thereon located in Prince George's County, MD and more fully described in the aforesaid Deed of Trust.
The property, and any improvements thereon, will be sold in an "as is" condition and subject to conditions, restrictions and agreements of record affecting the same, if any, and with no warranty of any kind.

Terms of Sale: A deposit of \$17,000 in the form of certified check, cashier's check or money order will be required of the purchaser at time and place of sale. Balance of the purchase price, together with interest on the unpaid purchase money at the current rate contained in the Deed of Trust Note, or any modifications thereto, from the date of sale to the date funds are received by the Sub. Trustees, payable in cash within ten days of final ratification of the sale by the Circuit Court. There will be no abatement of interest due to the purchaser in the event additional funds are tendered before settlement. TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE FOR THE PURCHASER. Adjustment of all real property taxes, including agricultural taxes, if applicable, and any and all public and/or private charges or assessments, to the extent such amounts survive foreclosure sale, including water/sewer, ground rent and front foot benefit charges, to be adjusted to date of sale and thereafter assumed by purchaser. Purchaser is responsible for any recapture of homestead tax credit. All transfer taxes and recordation taxes shall be paid by Purchaser. The purchaser shall be responsible for the payment of the ground rent escrow, if required. Condominium fees and/or homeowners association dues, if any, shall be assumed by the purchaser from the date of sale. Purchaser is responsible for obtaining physical possession of the property, and assumes risk of loss or damage to the property from the date of sale. The sale is subject to post-sale audit of the status of the loan with the loan servicer including, but not limited to, determination of whether the borrower entered into any repayment agreement, reinstated or paid off the loan prior to the sale. In any such event, this sale shall be null and void, and the Purchaser's sole remedy, in law or equity, shall be the return of the deposit without interest. If purchaser fails to settle within ten days of ratification, subject to order of court, purchaser agrees that property will be resold and entire deposit retained by Sub. Trustees as liquidated damages for all losses occasioned by the purchaser's default and purchaser shall have no further liability. The purchaser waives personal service of any papers filed in connection with its failure to settle within ten days of ratification and expressly agrees to accept service by first class mail at the address provided by the Purchaser as identified on the Memorandum of Sale. The defaulted purchaser shall not be entitled to any surplus proceeds resulting from said resale even if such surplus results from improvements to the property by said defaulted purchaser. Sub. Trustees will convey either marketable or insurable title. If they cannot deliver one or the other, or if ratification of the sale is denied by the Circuit Court for any reason, the Purchaser's sole remedy, at law or equity, is return of the deposit without interest. (Matter No. 371432-1)

Howard N. Bierman, Carrie M. Ward, et. al.,
Substitute Trustees



908 York Road • Towson, MD 21204 • 410.828.4838
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Feb 5,12,19, 2025

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Rockville, MD 20852
(301) 961-6555

**SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEES' SALE
OF REAL PROPERTY AND
ANY IMPROVEMENTS THEREON**

**1355 POTOMAC HEIGHTS DRIVE, UNIT #53
FORT WASHINGTON, MD 20744**

Under a power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust dated July 6, 2004, recorded in Liber 20125, Folio 671 among the Land Records of Prince George's County, MD, with an original principal balance of \$132,000.00, default having occurred under the terms thereof, the Sub. Trustees will sell at public auction at the Circuit Court for Prince George's County, 14735 Main St., Upper Marlboro, MD, 20772 (Duval Wing entrance, located on Main St.), on

FEBRUARY 25, 2025 AT 11:25 AM

ALL THAT FEE SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND, together with any buildings or improvements thereon located in Prince George's County, MD and described as Unit No. 53, in a Plat of Condominium Subdivision styled, "Plat of Condominium-Pinewood Hill Condominium, Section Four" and more fully described in the aforesaid Deed of Trust.
The property, and any improvements thereon, will be sold in an "as is" condition and subject to conditions, restrictions and agreements of record affecting the same, if any, and with no warranty of any kind.

Terms of Sale: A deposit of \$13,000 in the form of certified check, cashier's check or money order will be required of the purchaser at time and place of sale. Balance of the purchase price, together with interest on the unpaid purchase money at the current rate contained in the Deed of Trust Note, or any modifications thereto, from the date of sale to the date funds are received by the Sub. Trustees, payable in cash within ten days of final ratification of the sale by the Circuit Court. There will be no abatement of interest due to the purchaser in the event additional funds are tendered before settlement. TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE FOR THE PURCHASER. Adjustment of all real property taxes, including agricultural taxes, if applicable, and any and all public and/or private charges or assessments, to the extent such amounts survive foreclosure sale, including water/sewer, ground rent and front foot benefit charges, to be adjusted to date of sale and thereafter assumed by purchaser. Purchaser is responsible for any recapture of homestead tax credit. All transfer taxes and recordation taxes shall be paid by Purchaser. The purchaser shall be responsible for the payment of the ground rent escrow, if required. Condominium fees and/or homeowners association dues, if any, shall be assumed by the purchaser from the date of sale. Purchaser is responsible for obtaining physical possession of the property, and assumes risk of loss or damage to the property from the date of sale. The sale is subject to post-sale audit of the status of the loan with the loan servicer including, but not limited to, determination of whether the borrower entered into any repayment agreement, reinstated or paid off the loan prior to the sale. In any such event, this sale shall be null and void, and the Purchaser's sole remedy, in law or equity, shall be the return of the deposit without interest. If purchaser fails to settle within ten days of ratification, subject to order of court, purchaser agrees that property will be resold and entire deposit retained by Sub. Trustees as liquidated damages for all losses occasioned by the purchaser's default and purchaser shall have no further liability. The purchaser waives personal service of any papers filed in connection with its failure to settle within ten days of ratification and expressly agrees to accept service by first class mail at the address provided by the Purchaser as identified on the Memorandum of Sale. The defaulted purchaser shall not be entitled to any surplus proceeds resulting from said resale even if such surplus results from improvements to the property by said defaulted purchaser. Sub. Trustees will convey either marketable or insurable title. If they cannot deliver one or the other, or if ratification of the sale is denied by the Circuit Court for any reason, the Purchaser's sole remedy, at law or equity, is return of the deposit without interest. (Matter No. 341843-2)

Howard N. Bierman, Carrie M. Ward, et. al.,
Substitute Trustees



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Feb 5,12,19, 2025

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Rockville, MD 20852
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**SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEES' SALE
OF REAL PROPERTY AND
ANY IMPROVEMENTS THEREON**

**17111 MANNING DRIVE
ACCOKEEK, MD 20607**

Under a power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust dated October 31, 2006, recorded in Liber 26372, Folio 357 among the Land Records of Prince George's County, MD, with an original principal balance of \$260,000.00, default having occurred under the terms thereof, the Sub. Trustees will sell at public auction at the Circuit Court for Prince George's County, 14735 Main St., Upper Marlboro, MD, 20772 (Duval Wing entrance, located on Main St.), on

FEBRUARY 25, 2025 AT 11:17 AM

ALL THAT FEE SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND, together with any buildings or improvements thereon located in Prince George's County, MD and more fully described in the aforesaid Deed of Trust.
The property, and any improvements thereon, will be sold in an "as is" condition and subject to conditions, restrictions and agreements of record affecting the same, if any, and with no warranty of any kind.

Terms of Sale: A deposit of \$41,000 in the form of certified check, cashier's check or money order will be required of the purchaser at time and place of sale. Balance of the purchase price, together with interest on the unpaid purchase money at the current rate contained in the Deed of Trust Note, or any modifications thereto, from the date of sale to the date funds are received by the Sub. Trustees, payable in cash within ten days of final ratification of the sale by the Circuit Court. There will be no abatement of interest due to the purchaser in the event additional funds are tendered before settlement. TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE FOR THE PURCHASER. Adjustment of all real property taxes, including agricultural taxes, if applicable, and any and all public and/or private charges or assessments, to the extent such amounts survive foreclosure sale, including water/sewer, ground rent and front foot benefit charges, to be adjusted to date of sale and thereafter assumed by purchaser. Purchaser is responsible for any recapture of homestead tax credit. All transfer taxes and recordation taxes shall be paid by Purchaser. The purchaser shall be responsible for the payment of the ground rent escrow, if required. Condominium fees and/or homeowners association dues, if any, shall be assumed by the purchaser from the date of sale. Purchaser is responsible for obtaining physical possession of the property, and assumes risk of loss or damage to the property from the date of sale. The sale is subject to post-sale audit of the status of the loan with the loan servicer including, but not limited to, determination of whether the borrower entered into any repayment agreement, reinstated or paid off the loan prior to the sale. In any such event, this sale shall be null and void, and the Purchaser's sole remedy, in law or equity, shall be the return of the deposit without interest. If purchaser fails to settle within ten days of ratification, subject to order of court, purchaser agrees that property will be resold and entire deposit retained by Sub. Trustees as liquidated damages for all losses occasioned by the purchaser's default and purchaser shall have no further liability. The purchaser waives personal service of any papers filed in connection with its failure to settle within ten days of ratification and expressly agrees to accept service by first class mail at the address provided by the Purchaser as identified on the Memorandum of Sale. The defaulted purchaser shall not be entitled to any surplus proceeds resulting from said resale even if such surplus results from improvements to the property by said defaulted purchaser. Sub. Trustees will convey either marketable or insurable title. If they cannot deliver one or the other, or if ratification of the sale is denied by the Circuit Court for any reason, the Purchaser's sole remedy, at law or equity, is return of the deposit without interest. (Matter No. 369424-1)

Howard N. Bierman, Carrie M. Ward, et. al.,
Substitute Trustees



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Feb 5,12,19, 2025

0012483927

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6003 Executive Blvd., Suite 101
Rockville, MD 20852
(301) 961-6555

**SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEES' SALE
OF REAL PROPERTY AND
ANY IMPROVEMENTS THEREON**

**1009 CHILLUM ROAD, UNIT #206
HYATTSVILLE, MD 20782**

Under a power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust dated August 2, 2007, recorded in Liber 28652, Folio 144 among the Land Records of Prince George's County, MD, with an original principal balance of \$179,900.00, default having occurred under the terms thereof, the Sub. Trustees will sell at public auction at the Circuit Court for Prince George's County, 14735 Main St., Upper Marlboro, MD, 20772 (Duval Wing entrance, located on Main St.), on

FEBRUARY 25, 2025 AT 11:19 AM

ALL THAT FEE SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND, together with any buildings or improvements thereon located in Prince George's County, MD and described as Unit 206, of Land Unit 3, in a Horizontal Condominium Regime entitled The Fairmont 1009 Condominium and more fully described in the aforesaid Deed of Trust.
The property, and any improvements thereon, will be sold in an "as is" condition and subject to conditions, restrictions and agreements of record affecting the same, if any, and with no warranty of any kind.

Terms of Sale: A deposit of \$12,000 in the form of certified check, cashier's check or money order will be required of the purchaser at time and place of sale. Balance of the purchase price, together with interest on the unpaid purchase money at the current rate contained in the Deed of Trust Note, or any modifications thereto, from the date of sale to the date funds are received by the Sub. Trustees, payable in cash within ten days of final ratification of the sale by the Circuit Court. There will be no abatement of interest due to the purchaser in the event additional funds are tendered before settlement. TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE FOR THE PURCHASER. Adjustment of all real property taxes, including agricultural taxes, if applicable, and any and all public and/or private charges or assessments, to the extent such amounts survive foreclosure sale, including water/sewer, ground rent and front foot benefit charges, to be adjusted to date of sale and thereafter assumed by purchaser. Purchaser is responsible for any recapture of homestead tax credit. All transfer taxes and recordation taxes shall be paid by Purchaser. The purchaser shall be responsible for the payment of the ground rent escrow, if required. Condominium fees and/or homeowners association dues, if any, shall be assumed by the purchaser from the date of sale. Purchaser is responsible for obtaining physical possession of the property, and assumes risk of loss or damage to the property from the date of sale. The sale is subject to post-sale audit of the status of the loan with the loan servicer including, but not limited to, determination of whether the borrower entered into any repayment agreement, reinstated or paid off the loan prior to the sale. In any such event, this sale shall be null and void, and the Purchaser's sole remedy, in law or equity, shall be the return of the deposit without interest. If purchaser fails to settle within ten days of ratification, subject to order of court, purchaser agrees that property will be resold and entire deposit retained by Sub. Trustees as liquidated damages for all losses occasioned by the purchaser's default and purchaser shall have no further liability. The purchaser waives personal service of any papers filed in connection with its failure to settle within ten days of ratification and expressly agrees to accept service by first class mail at the address provided by the Purchaser as identified on the Memorandum of Sale. The defaulted purchaser shall not be entitled to any surplus proceeds resulting from said resale even if such surplus results from improvements to the property by said defaulted purchaser. Sub. Trustees will convey either marketable or insurable title. If they cannot deliver one or the other, or if ratification of the sale is denied by the Circuit Court for any reason, the Purchaser's sole remedy, at law or equity, is return of the deposit without interest. (Matter No. 366843-1)

Howard N. Bierman, Carrie M. Ward, et. al.,
Substitute Trustees



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Feb 5,12,19, 2025

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Rosenberg & Associates, LLC
4340 East West Highway, Suite 600
Bethesda, MD 20814
(301) 907-8000
www.rosenberg-asso.com

**SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEES' SALE
OF IMPROVED REAL PROPERTY**

**405 PRITCHARD LANE
UPPER MARLBORO, MD 20774**

Under a power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust from Stuart A. Waters dated December 23, 2020 and recorded in Liber 45808, folio 282 and re-recorded in Liber 48605, Folio 560 among the Land Records of Prince George's County, MD, default having occurred under the terms thereof, the Trustees will sell at public auction at the Circuit Court for Prince George's County, 14735 Main St., Upper Marlboro, MD, 20772 (Duval Wing entrance, located on Main St.), on

FEBRUARY 25, 2025 AT 11:09 AM

ALL THAT FEE SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND, together with the buildings and improvements thereon situated in Prince George's County, MD and more fully described in the aforesaid Deed of Trust. Tax ID #13-146451.
The property, which is improved by a dwelling, will be sold in an "as is" condition and subject to conditions, restrictions and agreements of record affecting the same, if any, and with no warranty of any kind.

Terms of Sale: A deposit of \$15,000 in the form of certified check, cashier's check or money order will be required of the purchaser at time and place of sale. Balance of the purchase price to be paid in cash within ten days of final ratification of sale by the Circuit Court for Prince George's County. Interest to be paid on the unpaid purchase money at the rate pursuant to the Deed of Trust Note from the date of sale to the date funds are received in the office of the Trustees. There will be no abatement of interest in the event additional funds are tendered before settlement or if settlement is delayed for any reason. The noteholder shall not be obligated to pay interest if it is the purchaser. TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE FOR THE PURCHASER. There will be no reduction of interest due to overpayment of deposit. Adjustment of all real property taxes (excluding recapture of previously reduced or exempt taxes) and any other public charges or assessments, to the extent such amount survive foreclosure sale, including water/sewer charges, and ground rent to be adjusted to date of sale and paid at execution of the deed, except where the secured party is the purchaser, and thereafter assumed by the purchaser. All due and/or unpaid private utility, water and sewer facilities charges, condo/HOA assessments and Columbia Assoc. assessments, to the extent such amount survive foreclosure sale, are payable by the purchaser without adjustment. Cost of all documentary stamps, transfer taxes, recaptured taxes (including but not limited to agricultural taxes), and settlement expenses shall be borne by the purchaser. Purchaser shall be responsible for obtaining physical possession of the property. Purchaser assumes the risk of loss or damage to the property from the date of sale forward. Additional terms to be announced at the time of sale. If the Trustees are unable to convey good and marketable title, the purchaser's sole remedy in law and equity shall be limited to a refund of the deposit without interest. If the purchaser fails to go to settlement, subject to order of the court, the entire deposit (including any amount received over the advertised deposit amount) shall be forfeited to the Trustees as liquidated damages for all losses occasioned by the purchaser's default and purchaser shall have no further liability. In the event of a resale, the defaulting purchaser shall not be entitled to receive the surplus, if any, even if such surplus results from improvements to the property by said defaulting purchaser and the defaulting purchaser shall be liable to the Trustees and secured party for reasonable attorney's fees and expenses incurred in connection with all litigation involving the Property or the proceeds of the resale. Defaulting purchaser waives personal service of any document filed in connection with such a motion on him/herself and/or any principal or corporate designee, and expressly agrees to accept service of any such document by regular mail directed to the address provided by said purchaser at the time of the foreclosure auction. Trustees' file number 22-001556-MD-F-2.

Diane S. Rosenberg, Mark D. Meyer, et al., Trustees



908 York Road • Towson, MD 21204 • 410.828.4838
www.alexcooper.com

Feb 5,12,19, 2025

0012483916

Rosenberg & Associates, LLC
4340 East West Highway, Suite 600
Bethesda, MD 20814
(301) 907-8000
www.rosenberg-asso.com

**SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEES' SALE
OF IMPROVED REAL PROPERTY**

**3012 LUMAR DRIVE
FORT WASHINGTON, MD 20744**

Under a power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust from Wenona V. Mewborn dated May 18, 2004 and recorded in Liber 21414, folio 125 among the Land Records of Prince George's County, MD, default having occurred under the terms thereof, the Trustees will sell at public auction at the Circuit Court for Prince George's County, 14735 Main St., Upper Marlboro, MD, 20772 (Duval Wing entrance, located on Main St.), on

FEBRUARY 25, 2025 AT 11:07 AM

ALL THAT FEE SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND, together with the buildings and improvements thereon situated in Prince George's County, MD and more fully described in the aforesaid Deed of Trust. Tax ID #12-1373323.
The property, which is improved by a dwelling, will be sold in an "as is" condition and subject to conditions, restrictions and agreements of record affecting the same, if any, and with no warranty of any kind.

Terms of Sale: A deposit of \$20,000 in the form of certified check, cashier's check or money order will be required of the purchaser at time and place of sale. Balance of the purchase price to be paid in cash within ten days of final ratification of sale by the Circuit Court for Prince George's County. Interest to be paid on the unpaid purchase money at the rate pursuant to the Deed of Trust Note from the date of sale to the date funds are received in the office of the Trustees. There will be no abatement of interest in the event additional funds are tendered before settlement or if settlement is delayed for any reason. The noteholder shall not be obligated to pay interest if it is the purchaser. TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE FOR THE PURCHASER. There will be no reduction of interest due to overpayment of deposit. Adjustment of all real property taxes (excluding recapture of previously reduced or exempt taxes) and any other public charges or assessments, to the extent such amount survive foreclosure sale, including water/sewer charges, and ground rent to be adjusted to date of sale and paid at execution of the deed, except where the secured party is the purchaser, and thereafter assumed by the purchaser. All due and/or unpaid private utility, water and sewer facilities charges, condo/HOA assessments and Columbia Assoc. assessments, to the extent such amount survive foreclosure sale, are payable by the purchaser without adjustment. Cost of all documentary stamps, transfer taxes, recaptured taxes (including but not limited to agricultural taxes), and settlement expenses shall be borne by the purchaser. Purchaser shall be responsible for obtaining physical possession of the property. Purchaser assumes the risk of loss or damage to the property from the date of sale forward. Additional terms to be announced at the time of sale. If the Trustees are unable to convey good and marketable title, the purchaser's sole remedy in law and equity shall be limited to a refund of the deposit without interest. If the purchaser fails to go to settlement, subject to order of the court, the entire deposit (including any amount received over the advertised deposit amount) shall be forfeited to the Trustees as liquidated damages for all losses occasioned by the purchaser's default and purchaser shall have no further liability. In the event of a resale, the defaulting purchaser shall not be entitled to receive the surplus, if any, even if such surplus results from improvements to the property by said defaulting purchaser and the defaulting purchaser shall be liable to the Trustees and secured party for reasonable attorney's fees and expenses incurred in connection with all litigation involving the Property or the proceeds of the resale. Defaulting purchaser waives personal service of any document filed in connection with such a motion on him/herself and/or any principal or corporate designee, and expressly agrees to accept service of any such document by regular mail directed to the address provided by said purchaser at the time of the foreclosure auction. Trustees' file number 23-001225-MD-F-1.

Diane S. Rosenberg, Mark D. Meyer, et al., Trustees



908 York Road • Towson, MD 21204 • 410.828.4838
www.alexcooper.com

Feb 5,12,19, 2025

0012483915

851

Prince Georges County

851

Prince Georges County

TRUSTEE'S SALE

3512 Eyre Dr S, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

Trustee's Sale of valuable fee simple property improved by premises known as 3512 Eyre Dr S, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772. By virtue of the power and authority contained in a Deed of Trust, dated June 11, 2007, and recorded in Liber 28782 at Page 151 among the land records of the County of Prince George's, in the original principal amount of \$221,000.00. Upon default and request for sale, the undersigned trustees will offer for sale at public auction at the Courthouse for the COUNTY OF PRINCE GEORGE'S, at the front of the Duval Wing of the Courthouse Complex located at 14735 Main Street, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772, on **February 18, 2025 at 2:00 PM**, all that property described in said Deed of Trust including but not limited to:

Tax ID# 03-0191726

Said property is in fee simple and is improved by a dwelling and is sold in "as is condition" and subject to all superior covenants, conditions, liens, restrictions, easement, rights-of-way, as may affect same, if any.

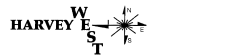
TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of 10% of the sale price, cash or certified funds shall be required at the time of sale. The balance of the purchase price with interest at 6.00% per annum from the date of sale to the date of payment will be paid within TEN DAYS after the final ratification of the sale.

Adjustments on all taxes, public charges and special or regular assessments will be made as of the date of sale and thereafter assumed by purchaser.

If applicable, condominium and/or homeowners association dues and assessments that may become due after the time of sale will be the responsibility of the purchaser. Title examination, conveyancing, state revenue stamps, transfer taxes, title insurance, and all other costs incident to settlement are to be paid by the purchaser. Time is of the essence for the purchaser, otherwise the deposit will be forfeited and the property may be resold at risk and costs of the defaulting purchaser. If the sale is not ratified or if the Substitute Trustees are unable to convey marketable title in accord with these terms of sale, the purchaser's only remedy is the return of the deposit. Trustee's File No. 24-296190.

William M. Savage, et al., Substitute Trustees.

LOGS LEGAL GROUP LLP,
Mailing Address: 10130 Perimeter Parkway, Suite 400,
Charlotte, North Carolina 28216
(410) 769-9797



Jan 29, Feb 5, 12, 2025

0012482148

TRUSTEE'S SALE

7611 Killbarron Drive, Laurel, MD 20707

Trustee's Sale of valuable fee simple property improved by premises known as 7611 Killbarron Drive, Laurel, MD 20707. By virtue of the power and authority contained in a Deed of Trust, dated December 1, 2006, and recorded in Liber 28294 at Page 599 among the land records of the County of Prince George, in the original principal amount of \$612,000.00. Upon default and request for sale, the undersigned trustees will offer for sale at public auction at the Courthouse for the COUNTY OF PRINCE GEORGE, at the front of the Duval Wing of the Courthouse Complex located at 14735 Main Street, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772, on **March 4, 2025 at 2:00 PM**, all that property described in said Deed of Trust including but not limited to:

Tax ID# 10-3468238

Said property is in fee simple and is improved by a dwelling and is sold in "as is condition" and subject to all superior covenants, conditions, liens, restrictions, easement, rights-of-way, as may affect same, if any.

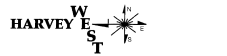
TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of 10% of the sale price, cash or certified funds shall be required at the time of sale. The balance of the purchase price with interest at 6.00% per annum from the date of sale to the date of payment will be paid within TEN DAYS after the final ratification of the sale.

Adjustments on all taxes, public charges and special or regular assessments will be made as of the date of sale and thereafter assumed by purchaser.

If applicable, condominium and/or homeowners association dues and assessments that may become due after the time of sale will be the responsibility of the purchaser. Title examination, conveyancing, state revenue stamps, transfer taxes, title insurance, and all other costs incident to settlement are to be paid by the purchaser. Time is of the essence for the purchaser, otherwise the deposit will be forfeited and the property may be resold at risk and costs of the defaulting purchaser. If the sale is not ratified or if the Substitute Trustees are unable to convey marketable title in accord with these terms of sale, the purchaser's only remedy is the return of the deposit. Trustee's File No. 19-284168.

William M. Savage, et al., Substitute Trustees.

LOGS LEGAL GROUP LLP,
Mailing Address: 10130 Perimeter Parkway, Suite 400,
Charlotte, North Carolina 28216
(410) 769-9797



Feb 12,19,26, 2025

0012482874

TRUSTEE'S SALE

9123 Fort Foote Road, Fort Washington, MD 20744

Trustee's Sale of valuable fee simple property improved by premises known as 9123 Fort Foote Road, Fort Washington, MD 20744. By virtue of the power and authority contained in a Deed of Trust, dated February 6, 2007, and recorded in Liber 27897 at Page 729 among the land records of the County of Prince George's, in the original principal amount of \$387,000.00. Upon default and request for sale, the undersigned trustees will offer for sale at public auction at the Courthouse for the COUNTY OF PRINCE GEORGE'S, at the front of the Duval Wing of the Courthouse Complex located at 14735 Main Street, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772, on **March 4, 2025 at 2:00 PM**, all that property described in said Deed of Trust including but not limited to:

Tax ID# 12-1234632

Said property is in fee simple and is improved by a dwelling and is sold in "as is condition" and subject to all superior covenants, conditions, liens, restrictions, easement, rights-of-way, as may affect same, if any.

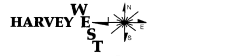
TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of 10% of the sale price, cash or certified funds shall be required at the time of sale. The balance of the purchase price with interest at 6.00% per annum from the date of sale to the date of payment will be paid within TEN DAYS after the final ratification of the sale.

Adjustments on all taxes, public charges and special or regular assessments will be made as of the date of sale and thereafter assumed by purchaser.

If applicable, condominium and/or homeowners association dues and assessments that may become due after the time of sale will be the responsibility of the purchaser. Title examination, conveyancing, state revenue stamps, transfer taxes, title insurance, and all other costs incident to settlement are to be paid by the purchaser. Time is of the essence for the purchaser, otherwise the deposit will be forfeited and the property may be resold at risk and costs of the defaulting purchaser. If the sale is not ratified or if the Substitute Trustees are unable to convey marketable title in accord with these terms of sale, the purchaser's only remedy is the return of the deposit. Trustee's File No. 24-297116.

William M. Savage, et al., Substitute Trustees.

LOGS LEGAL GROUP LLP,
Mailing Address: 10130 Perimeter Parkway, Suite 400,
Charlotte, North Carolina 28216
(410) 769-9797



Feb 12,19,26, 2025

0012483968

851

Prince Georges County

851

Prince Georges County

TRUSTEE'S SALE

3416 Bonita St, Suitland, MD 20746

Trustee's Sale of valuable fee simple property improved by premises known as 3416 Bonita St, Suitland, MD 20746. By virtue of the power and authority contained in a Deed of Trust, dated January 21, 2020, and recorded in Liber 43211 at Page 106 among the land records of the County of Prince George's, in the original principal amount of \$232,056.00. Upon default and request for sale, the undersigned trustees will offer for sale at public auction at the Courthouse for the COUNTY OF PRINCE GEORGE'S, at the front of the Duval Wing of the Courthouse Complex located at 14735 Main Street, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772, on **March 4, 2025 at 2:00 PM**, all that property described in said Deed of Trust including but not limited to:

Tax ID# 06-0475343

Said property is in fee simple and is improved by a dwelling and is sold in "as is condition" and subject to all superior covenants, conditions, liens, restrictions, easement, rights-of-way, as may affect same, if any.

851 Prince Georges County 851 Prince Georges County

TRUSTEE'S SALE
1317 Iron Forge Rd, Forestville, MD 20747

Trustee's Sale of valuable fee simple property improved by premises known as 1317 Iron Forge Rd, Forestville, MD 20747. By virtue of the power and authority contained in a Deed of Trust, dated December 20, 2006, and recorded in Liber 29258 at Page 103 among the land records of the County of Prince George's, in the original principal amount of \$89,100.00. Upon default and request for sale, the undersigned trustees will offer for sale at public auction at the Courthouse for the COUNTY OF PRINCE GEORGE'S, at the front of the Duval Wing of the Courthouse Complex located at 14735 Main Street, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772, on **February 18, 2025 at 2:00 PM**, all that property described in said Deed of Trust including but not limited to:

Tax ID# 06-0417402

Said property is in fee simple and is improved by a dwelling and is sold in "as is condition" and subject to all superior covenants, conditions, liens, restrictions, easement, rights-of-way, as may affect same, if any.

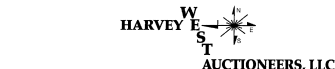
TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of 10% of the sale price, cash or certified funds shall be required at the time of sale. The balance of the purchase price with interest at 6.00% per annum from the date of sale to the date of payment will be paid within TEN DAYS after the final ratification of the sale.

Adjustments on all taxes, public charges and special or regular assessments will be made as of the date of sale and thereafter assumed by purchaser.

If applicable, condominium and/or homeowners association dues and assessments that may become due after the time of sale will be the responsibility of the purchaser. Title examination, conveyancing, state revenue stamps, transfer taxes, title insurance, and all other costs incident to settlement are to be paid by the purchaser. Time is of the essence for the purchaser, otherwise the deposit will be forfeited and the property may be resold at risk and costs of the defaulting purchaser. If the sale is not ratified or if the Substitute Trustees are unable to convey marketable title in accord with these terms of sale, the purchaser's only remedy is the return of the deposit. Trustee's File No. 23-293266.

William M. Savage, et al., Substitute Trustees.

LOGS LEGAL GROUP LLP
Mailing Address: 10130 Perimeter Parkway, Suite 400,
Charlotte, North Carolina 28216
(410) 769-9797



Jan 29 Feb 5, 12 2025 0012480619

852 Anne Arundel County 852 Anne Arundel County

Rosenberg Martin Greenberg, LLP
25 South Charles Street
21st Floor
Baltimore, MD 21201

**SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE'S SALE
OF REAL PROPERTY
7410 HAWKINS DRIVE
HANOVER, MD 21076
(Tax I.D. No. 05-800-03652300)**

Pursuant to the power of sale in that certain Deed of Trust, Assignment of Rents and Security Agreement dated June 9, 2023, from Tamram Real Estate Investment Group LLC and recorded in the Land Records of Anne Arundel County, Maryland, in Book 39728, at page 235 (the "Deed of Trust"), the beneficiary thereof (the "Beneficiary") having appointed Jeffrey S. Greenberg as substitute trustee (the "Substitute Trustee"), and default having occurred, notice is hereby given that the Substitute Trustee will offer for sale to the highest qualified bidder at public auction, the real property commonly known as 7410 Hawkins Drive, Hanover, MD 21076 (Tax I.D. No. 05-800-03652300), being more particularly described in the Deed of Trust (the "Property"), at the front door of the Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County (the "Circuit Court"), located at 8 Church Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401, on:

MARCH 4, 2025 AT 9:15 A.M.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY: Being known and designated as Lot No. 63, situated in the subdivision known as "TIMBER RIDGE", Plat No. 2, which Plat is recorded among the Plat Records of Anne Arundel County, Maryland in Plat Book 25, folio 36.

The Property is believed to be improved by a dwelling. The Property will be sold in "AS IS" condition and without any warranties or representations, either express or implied, as to the nature, condition or description of the Property or its improvements. In addition, the Property will also be sold subject to all existing housing, building and zoning code violations, subject to all critical area and wetland violations, subject to all environmental problems and violations which may exist on or with respect to the Property, and subject to all matters and restrictions of record affecting the same (if any).

The Property will be sold subject to all easements, conditions, liens, taxes, restrictions, rights of redemption, covenants, encumbrances, agreements, and unexpired leases of record, and such state of facts that an accurate survey or physical inspection of the Property might disclose (if any) that are not otherwise extinguished by operation of law.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of \$20,000 by certified check or cashier's check will be required at the time of sale from all bidders other than Beneficiary or an affiliate of Beneficiary. The deposit shall not earn interest. The balance of the purchase price, together with interest at the rate of 11.49% per annum from the date of sale to the date funds are received by the Substitute Trustee, shall be paid in cash within 10 days after ratification of the sale by the Circuit Court. Except as otherwise set forth herein, there will be no abatement of interest due from the purchaser in the event additional funds are tendered before settlement, or otherwise. TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE FOR THE PURCHASER. Real estate and personal property taxes, water, ground rents, other municipal liens and charges, and all other public charges and assessments payable on an annual basis, or otherwise, shall be adjusted to the date of sale and assumed thereafter by the purchaser. Any condominium or homeowners' association fees, assessments or capital contributions payable with respect to the Property shall be assumed after the date of sale by the purchaser. All transfer and recordation taxes and all other cost and expenses of settlement shall be paid by purchaser. Purchaser shall pay all applicable agricultural tax, if any. Purchaser is responsible for obtaining physical possession of the Property and assumes risk of loss or damage to the Property from the date of sale. In any such event, this sale shall be null and void, and purchaser's sole remedy, in law or equity, shall be the return of the deposit without interest. If purchaser fails to settle within 10 days after ratification, the Substitute Trustee may file a motion to resell the Property. If purchaser defaults under these terms, the deposit shall be forfeited. The Substitute Trustee may then resell the Property at the risk and cost of the defaulting purchaser. The defaulted purchaser shall not be entitled to any surplus proceeds resulting from said resale even if such surplus results from improvements to the Property by said defaulted purchaser. If the Substitute Trustee is unable to convey either insurable or marketable title, or if ratification of the sale is denied by the Circuit Court for any reason, the purchaser's sole remedy, at law and equity, is the return of the deposit without interest. Additional terms and conditions may be announced at the time of sale. (Case No. C-02-CV-24-003025)

Unless otherwise agreed by the Substitute Trustee, settlement shall be held at the offices of Rosenberg Martin Greenberg, LLP, 25 S. Charles Street, 21st Fl., Baltimore, Maryland 21201.

The information contained herein was obtained from sources deemed to be reliable but is offered for informational purposes only. The Auctioneer, the Beneficiary and the Substitute Trustee do not make any representations or warranties with respect to the accuracy of this information.

Jeffrey S. Greenberg, Substitute Trustee

LICENSE NOS. A000113, A000176, A000177, A000193, A000424, A000479, A000507, A000508



Feb 12, 19, 26, 2025 0012485023

852 Anne Arundel County 852 Anne Arundel County

COMMISSIONER'S SALE –
NOTICE OF DEFAULT AND FORECLOSURE SALE
7341 Green Acres Drive, Glen Burnie, Maryland 21060

NOTICE OF DEFAULT AND FORECLOSURE SALE, made this Fourth day of February, 2025, by Buonassissi, Henning & Lash, P.C., Foreclosure Commissioner, with Richard A. Lash, President, acting:

WHEREAS, on June 21, 2010, a certain Deed of Trust was executed by Warren Miller and Warren Miller, Jr. as trustor in favor of Generation Mortgage Company as beneficiary and Unique Title & Escrow as trustee, and was recorded on June 29, 2010, in Libre/Book 22395, Folio/Page 0365 in the office of the Land Records of Anne Arundel County, Maryland; and

WHEREAS, the Deed of Trust was insured by the United States Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (the "Secretary" or "HUD") pursuant to the National Housing Act for the purpose of providing single family housing; and

WHEREAS, the beneficial interest in the Deed of Trust is now owned by the Secretary, pursuant to an assignment dated February 18, 2019, and recorded on February 19, 2019, in Deed Book 32886, Page 99, in the office of the Land Records of Anne Arundel County, Maryland; and

WHEREAS, a default has been made in the covenants and conditions of the Deed of Trust due to violation of 9(b)(i) and 9(b)(iii): The Property ceases to be the principal residence of a Borrower for reasons other than death and the Property is not the principal residence of at least one other Borrower, and an obligation of the Borrower under this Security Instrument is not performed; and

WHEREAS, the entire amount delinquent as of January 21, 2025 is \$300,401.22; and

WHEREAS, by virtue of this default, the Secretary has declared the entire amount of the indebtedness secured by the Deed of Trust to be immediately due and payable;

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to powers vested in me by the Single Family Mortgage Foreclosure Act of 1994, 12 U.S.C. 3751 et seq., by 24 CFR part 27, subpart B, and by the Secretary's designation of Buonassissi, Henning & Lash, P.C., as Foreclosure Commissioner, notice is hereby given that on **March 4, 2025 at 10:00 AM** local time, all real and personal property at or used in connection with the following described premises ("Property") will be sold at public auction to the highest bidder:

Commonly known as:
ALL that parcel of ground consisting of .2 acre, more less, situate at the southwest corner of the original two (2) acre tract which was granted and conveyed unto Dora F. Williams by means of the aforesaid Deed dated April 18, 1941 from George B. Evans and Louis M. Strauss, Trustees, (Liber JHN 484, folio 69) and being part of the residue of all that original 2.8 acre tract which was shown and designated as lot 5 on the aforesaid plat entitled "Showing Subdivision of Land for Heirs of Martha Green Estate.

The sale will be held at the front of the Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County, 8 Church Circle, Annapolis, Maryland 21401.

The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development will bid \$312,026.76.

There will be no proration of taxes, rents or other income or liabilities, except that the purchaser will pay, at or before closing, his prorata share of any real estate taxes that have been paid by the Secretary to the date of the foreclosure sale.

When making their bids, all bidders except the Secretary must submit a deposit 10% of the successful bid in the form of a certified check or cashier's check made out to the United States Secretary of Housing and Urban Development. A deposit need not accompany each oral bid. If the successful bid is oral, a deposit of 10% of the successful bid must be presented before the bidding is closed. The deposit is nonrefundable. The remainder of the purchase price must be delivered within 30 days of the sale or at such other time as the Secretary may determine for good cause shown, time being of the essence. This amount, like the bid deposits, must be delivered in the form of a certified or cashier's check. If the Secretary is the highest bidder, he need not pay the bid amount in cash. The successful bidder will pay all conveying fees, all real estate and other taxes that are due on or after the delivery date of the remainder of the payment and all other costs associated with the transfer of title. At the conclusion of the sale, the deposits of the unsuccessful bidders will be returned to them.

The Secretary may grant an extension of time within which to deliver the remainder of the payment. All extensions will be for 15-day increments for a fee of \$500.00, paid in advance. The extension fee shall be in the form of a certified or cashier's check made payable to the Secretary of HUD. If the high bidder closes the sale prior to the expiration of any extension period, the unused portion of the extension fee shall be applied toward the amount due.

If the high bidder is unable to close the sale within the required period, or within any extensions of time granted by the Secretary, the high bidder may be required to forfeit the cash deposit or, at the election of the foreclosure commissioner after consultation with the HUD representative, will be liable to HUD for any costs incurred as a result of such failure. The Commissioner may, at the direction of the HUD representative, offer the property to the second highest bidder for an amount equal to the highest price offered by that bidder.

There is no right of redemption, or right of possession based upon a right of redemption, in the mortgagor or others subsequent to a foreclosure completed pursuant to the Act. Therefore, the Foreclosure Commissioner will issue a Deed to the purchaser(s) upon receipt of the entire purchase price in accordance with the terms of the sale as provided herein. HUD does not guarantee that the property will be vacant.

The scheduled foreclosure sale shall be cancelled or adjourned if it is established, by documented written application of the mortgagor to the Foreclosure Commissioner not less than 3 days before the date of sale, or otherwise, that the default or defaults upon which the foreclosure is based did not exist at the time of service of this notice of default and foreclosure sale, or all amounts due under the mortgage agreement are tendered to the Foreclosure Commissioner, in the form of a certified or cashier's check payable to the Secretary of HUD, before public auction of the property is completed.

The amount that must be paid if the mortgage is to be reinstated prior to the scheduled sale is \$300,401.22 as of January 21, 2025, plus all other amounts that would be due under the mortgage agreement if payments under the mortgage had not been accelerated, advertising costs and postage expenses incurred in giving notice, mileage by the most reasonable road distance for posting notices and for the Foreclosure Commissioner's attendance at the sale, reasonable and customary costs incurred for title and lien record searches, the necessary out-of-pocket costs incurred by the Foreclosure Commissioner for recording documents, a commission for the Foreclosure Commissioner, and all other costs incurred in connection with the foreclosure prior to reinstatement.

Tender of payment by certified or cashier's check or application for cancellation of the foreclosure sale shall be submitted to the address of the Foreclosure Commissioner provided below.

Date: February 4, 2025

BUONASSISSI, HENNING & LASH, P.C.
FORECLOSURE COMMISSIONER
By: Richard A. Lash, Esq.
12355 Sunrise Valley Drive, Suite 650
Reston, VA 20191
TEL: 703-796-1341 Ext.144
FAX: (888) 252-7739

LICENSE NOS. A000113, A000176, A000177, A000193, A000424, A000479, A000507, A000508



Feb 12, 19, 26, 2025 0012484882

Recipe finder

Search our database of tested recipes by ingredient or name.

washingtonpost.com/recipes

The Washington Post

5015-242

852 Anne Arundel County 852 Anne Arundel County

BWW Law Group, LLC
6003 Executive Blvd., Suite 101
Rockville, MD 20852
(301) 961-6555

**SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEES' SALE
OF REAL PROPERTY AND
ANY IMPROVEMENTS THEREON**

207 WEST RIVERVIEW ROAD
BALTIMORE A/R/T/A BROOKLYN, MD 21225

Under a power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust dated December 16, 2005, recorded in Liber 17309, Folio 533 among the Land Records of Anne Arundel County, MD, with an original principal balance of \$25,000.00, default having occurred under the terms thereof, the Sub. Trustees will sell at public auction at the Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County, at the Court House Door, 8 Church Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401, on

FEBRUARY 25, 2025 AT 9:19 AM

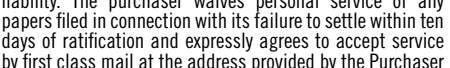
ALL THAT LEASEHOLD LOT OF GROUND, together with any buildings or improvements thereon located in Anne Arundel County, MD and more fully described in the aforesaid Deed of Trust. The property will be sold subject to an annual ground rent of \$78.00.

The property, and any improvements thereon, will be sold in an "as is" condition and subject to conditions, restrictions and agreements of record affecting the same, if any, and with no warranty of any kind. The property will be sold subject to a prior mortgage, the amount to be announced at the time of sale, if made available to the Substitute Trustees.

Terms of Sale: A deposit of \$5,000 in the form of certified check, cashier's check or money order will be required of the purchaser at time and place of sale. Balance of the purchase price, together with interest on the unpaid purchase money at the current rate contained in the Deed of Trust Note, or any modifications thereto, from the date of sale to the date funds are received by the Sub. Trustees, payable in cash within ten days of final ratification of the sale by the Circuit Court. There will be no abatement of interest due to the purchaser in the event additional funds are tendered before settlement. TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE FOR THE PURCHASER. Adjustment of all real property taxes, including agricultural taxes, if applicable, and any and all public and/or private charges or assessments, to the extent such amounts survive foreclosure sale, including water/sewer, ground rent and front foot benefit charges, to be adjusted to date of sale and thereafter assumed by purchaser. Purchaser is responsible for any recapture of homestead tax credit. All transfer taxes and recordation taxes shall be paid by Purchaser. The purchaser shall be responsible for the payment of the ground rent escrow, if required. Condominium fees and/or homeowners association dues, if any, shall be assumed by the purchaser from the date of sale. Purchaser is responsible for obtaining physical possession of the property, and assumes risk of loss or damage to the property from the date of sale. The sale is subject to post-sale audit of the status of the loan with the loan servicer including, but not limited to, determination of whether the borrower entered into any repayment agreement, reinstated or paid off the loan prior to the sale. In any such event, this sale shall be null and void, and the Purchaser's sole remedy, in law or equity, shall be the return of the deposit without interest. If purchaser fails to settle within ten days of ratification, subject to order of court, purchaser agrees that property will be resold and entire deposit retained by Sub. Trustees as liquidated damages for all losses occasioned by the purchaser's default and purchaser shall have no further liability. The purchaser waives personal service of any papers filed in connection with its failure to settle within ten days of ratification and expressly agrees to accept service by first class mail at the address provided by the Purchaser as identified on the Memorandum of Sale. The defaulted purchaser shall not be entitled to any surplus proceeds resulting from said resale even if such surplus results from improvements to the property by said defaulted purchaser. Sub. Trustees will convey either marketable or insurable title. If they cannot deliver one or the other, or if ratification of the sale is denied by the Circuit Court for any reason, the Purchaser's sole remedy, at law or equity, is return of the deposit without interest. (Matter No. 372825-1)

Howard N. Bierman, Carrie M. Ward, et al.,
Substitute Trustees

LICENSE NOS. A000113, A000176, A000177, A000193, A000424, A000479, A000507, A000508



Feb 12, 19, 2025 0012484859

BWW Law Group, LLC
6003 Executive Blvd., Suite 101
Rockville, MD 20852
(301) 961-6555

**SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEES' SALE
OF REAL PROPERTY AND
ANY IMPROVEMENTS THEREON**

8156 RIDGELY LOOP
SEVERN, MD 21144

Under a power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust dated March 8, 2019, recorded in Liber 23988, Folio 279 among the Land Records of Anne Arundel County, MD, with an original principal balance of \$519,943.00, default having occurred under the terms thereof, the Sub. Trustees will sell at public auction at the Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County, at the Court House Door, 8 Church Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401, on

MARCH 4, 2025 AT 9:48 AM

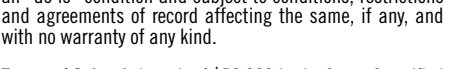
ALL THAT FEE SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND, together with any buildings or improvements thereon located in Anne Arundel County, MD and more fully described in the aforesaid Deed of Trust.

The property, and any improvements thereon, will be sold in an "as is" condition and subject to conditions, restrictions and agreements of record affecting the same, if any, and with no warranty of any kind.

Terms of Sale: A deposit of \$52,000 in the form of certified check, cashier's check or money order will be required of the purchaser at time and place of sale. Balance of the purchase price, together with interest on the unpaid purchase money at the current rate contained in the Deed of Trust Note, or any modifications thereto, from the date of sale to the date funds are received by the Sub. Trustees, payable in cash within ten days of final ratification of the sale by the Circuit Court. There will be no abatement of interest due to the purchaser in the event additional funds are tendered before settlement. TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE FOR THE PURCHASER. Adjustment of all real property taxes, including agricultural taxes, if applicable, and any and all public and/or private charges or assessments, to the extent such amounts survive foreclosure sale, including water/sewer, ground rent and front foot benefit charges, to be adjusted to date of sale and thereafter assumed by purchaser. Purchaser is responsible for any recapture of homestead tax credit. All transfer taxes and recordation taxes shall be paid by Purchaser. The purchaser shall be responsible for the payment of the ground rent escrow, if required. Condominium fees and/or homeowners association dues, if any, shall be assumed by the purchaser from the date of sale. Purchaser is responsible for obtaining physical possession of the property, and assumes risk of loss or damage to the property from the date of sale. The sale is subject to post-sale audit of the status of the loan with the loan servicer including, but not limited to, determination of whether the borrower entered into any repayment agreement, reinstated or paid off the loan prior to the sale. In any such event, this sale shall be null and void, and the Purchaser's sole remedy, in law or equity, shall be the return of the deposit without interest. If purchaser fails to settle within ten days of ratification, subject to order of court, purchaser agrees that property will be resold and entire deposit retained by Sub. Trustees as liquidated damages for all losses occasioned by the purchaser's default and purchaser shall have no further liability. The purchaser waives personal service of any papers filed in connection with its failure to settle within ten days of ratification and expressly agrees to accept service by first class mail at the address provided by the Purchaser as identified on the Memorandum of Sale. The defaulted purchaser shall not be entitled to any surplus proceeds resulting from said resale even if such surplus results from improvements to the property by said defaulted purchaser. Sub. Trustees will convey either marketable or insurable title. If they cannot deliver one or the other, or if ratification of the sale is denied by the Circuit Court for any reason, the Purchaser's sole remedy, at law or equity, is return of the deposit without interest. (Matter No. 343387-4)

Howard N. Bierman, Carrie M. Ward, et al.,
Substitute Trustees

LICENSE NOS. A000113, A000176, A000177, A000193, A000424, A000479, A000507, A000508



Feb 12, 19, 26, 2025 0012484833

852 Anne Arundel County 852 Anne Arundel County

BWW Law Group, LLC
6003 Executive Blvd., Suite 101
Rockville, MD 20852
(301) 961-6555

**SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEES' SALE
OF REAL PROPERTY AND
ANY IMPROVEMENTS THEREON**

305 DARLENE AVENUE
LINTHICUM HEIGHTS, MD 21090

Under a power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust dated July 24, 2020, recorded in Liber 35076, Folio 166 among the Land Records of Anne Arundel County, MD, with an original principal balance of \$397,664.00, default having occurred under the terms thereof, the Sub. Trustees will sell at public auction at the Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County, at the Court House Door, 8 Church Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401, on

MARCH 4, 2025 AT 9:50 AM

ALL THAT FEE SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND, together with any buildings or improvements thereon located in Anne Arundel County, MD and more fully described in the aforesaid Deed of Trust.

The property, and any improvements thereon, will be sold in an "as is" condition and subject to conditions, restrictions and agreements of record affecting the same, if any, and with no warranty of any kind.

Terms of Sale: A deposit of \$37,000 in the form of certified check, cashier's check or money order will be required of the purchaser at time and place of sale. Balance of the purchase price, together with interest on the unpaid purchase money at the current rate contained in the Deed of Trust Note, or any modifications thereto, from the date of sale to the date funds are received by the Sub. Trustees, payable in cash within ten days of final ratification of the sale by the Circuit Court. There will be no abatement of interest due to the purchaser in the event additional funds are tendered before settlement. TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE FOR THE PURCHASER. Adjustment of all real property taxes, including agricultural taxes, if applicable, and any and all public and/or private charges or assessments, to the extent such amounts survive foreclosure sale, including water/sewer, ground rent and front foot benefit charges, to be adjusted to date of sale and thereafter assumed by purchaser. Purchaser is responsible for any recapture of homestead tax credit. All transfer taxes and recordation taxes shall be paid by Purchaser. The purchaser shall be responsible for the payment of the ground rent escrow, if required. Condominium fees and/or homeowners association dues, if any, shall be assumed by the purchaser from the date of sale. Purchaser is responsible for obtaining physical possession of the property, and assumes risk of loss or damage to the property from the date of sale. The sale is subject to post-sale audit of the status of the loan with the loan servicer including, but not limited to, determination of whether the borrower entered into any repayment agreement, reinstated or paid off the loan prior to the sale. In any such event, this sale shall be null and void, and the Purchaser's sole remedy, in law or equity, shall be the return of the deposit without interest. If purchaser fails to settle within ten days of ratification, subject to order of court, purchaser agrees that property will be resold and entire deposit retained by Sub. Trustees as liquidated damages for all losses occasioned by the purchaser's default and purchaser shall have no further liability. The purchaser waives personal service of any papers filed in connection with its failure to settle within ten days of ratification and expressly agrees to accept service by first class mail at the address provided by the Purchaser as identified on the Memorandum of Sale. The defaulted purchaser shall not be entitled to any surplus proceeds resulting from said resale even if such surplus results from improvements to the property by said defaulted purchaser. Sub. Trustees will convey either marketable or insurable title. If they cannot deliver one or the other, or if ratification of the sale is denied by the Circuit Court for any reason, the Purchaser's sole remedy, at law or equity, is return of the deposit without interest. (Matter No. 363313-8)

Howard N. Bierman, Carrie M. Ward, et al.,
Substitute Trustees

LICENSE NOS. A000113, A000176, A000177, A000193, A000424, A000479, A000507, A000508

ALEX COOPER
auctioneers
908 York Road • Towson, MD 21204 • 410.828.4838
www.alexcooper.com

Feb 12, 19, 26, 2025 0012484834

Rosenberg & Associates, LLC
4340 East West Highway, Suite 600
Bethesda, MD 20814
(301) 907-8000
www.rosenberg-assoc.com

**SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEES' SALE
OF IMPROVED REAL PROPERTY**

17 ELLIOTT ROAD
ANNAPOLIS, MD 21403

Under a power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust from Jonathan Macdonald dated September 8, 2022 and recorded in Liber 39186, folio 12 among the Land Records of Anne Arundel County, MD, default having occurred under the terms thereof, the Trustees will sell at public auction at the Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County, at the Court House Door, 8 Church Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401, on

MARCH 4, 2025 AT 9:35 AM

ALL THAT FEE SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND, together with the buildings and improvements thereon situated in Anne Arundel County, MD and more fully described in the aforesaid Deed of Trust. Tax ID #06-000-06776030 and #06-000-06776500.

The property, which is improved by a dwelling, will be sold in an "as is" condition and subject to conditions, restrictions and agreements of record affecting the same, if any, and with no warranty of any kind.

Terms of Sale: A deposit of \$30,000 in the form of certified check, cashier's check or money order will be required of the purchaser at time and place of sale. Balance of the purchase price, together with interest on the unpaid purchase money at the current rate contained in the Deed of Trust Note, or any modifications thereto, from the date of sale to the date funds are received by the Sub. Trustees, payable in cash within ten days of final ratification of the sale by the Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County. Interest to be paid on the unpaid purchase money at the rate pursuant to the Deed of Trust Note from the date of sale to the date funds are received in the office of the Trustees. There will be no abatement of interest in the event additional funds are tendered before settlement or if settlement is delayed for any reason. The noteholder shall not be obligated to pay interest if it is the purchaser. TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE FOR THE PURCHASER. There will be no reduction of interest due to overpayment of deposit. Adjustment of all real property taxes, including agricultural taxes, if applicable, and any and all public and/or private charges or assessments, to the extent such amounts survive foreclosure sale, including water/sewer charges, and ground rent to be adjusted to date of sale and paid at execution of the deed, except where the secured party is the purchaser, and thereafter assumed by the purchaser. All due and/or unpaid utility, water and sewer facilities charges, condo/HOA assessments and Columbia Assoc. assessments, to the extent such amount survive foreclosure sale, are payable by the purchaser without adjustment. Cost of all real property taxes, including agricultural taxes, and settlement expenses shall be borne by the purchaser. Purchaser shall be responsible for obtaining physical possession of the property. Purchaser assumes the risk of loss or damage to the property from the date of sale forward. Additional terms to be announced at the time of sale. If the Trustees are unable to convey good and marketable title, the purchaser's sole remedy in law and equity shall be limited to a refund of the deposit without interest. If the purchaser fails to go to settlement, subject to order of the court, the entire deposit (including any amount received over the advertised deposit amount) shall be forfeited to the Trustees as liquidated damages for all losses occasioned by the purchaser's default and purchaser shall have no further liability. In the event of a resale, the defaulting purchaser shall not be entitled to receive the surplus, if any, even if such surplus results from improvements to the property by said defaulting purchaser and the defaulting purchaser shall be liable to the Trustees and secured party for reasonable attorney's fees and expenses incurred in connection with all litigation involving the Property or the proceeds of the resale. Defaulting purchaser waives personal service of any document filed in connection with such a motion on him/ herself and/or any principal or corporate designee, and expressly agrees to accept service of any such document by regular mail directed to the address provided by said purchaser at the time of the foreclosure auction. Trustees' file number 23-002123-MD-F-2.

Diane S. Rosenberg, Mark D. Meyer, et al., Trustees

LICENSE NOS. A000113, A000176, A000177, A000193, A000424, A000479, A000507, A000508

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Feb 12, 19, 26, 2025 0012484857

852 Anne Arundel County 852 Anne Arundel County

BWW Law Group, LLC
6003 Executive Blvd., Suite 101
Rockville, MD 20852
(301) 961-6555

**SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEES' SALE
OF REAL PROPERTY AND
ANY IMPROVEMENTS THEREON**

1352 BLACKWALNUT COURT
ANNAPOLIS, MD 21403

Under a power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust dated October 15, 2008, recorded in Liber 20475, Folio 499 among the Land Records of Anne Arundel County, MD, with an original principal balance of \$207,500.00, default having occurred under the terms thereof, the Sub. Trustees will sell at public auction at the Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County, at the Court House Door, 8 Church Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401, on

MARCH 4, 2025 AT 9:42 AM

ALL THAT FEE SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND, together with any buildings or improvements thereon located in Anne Arundel County, MD and more fully described in the aforesaid Deed of Trust.

The property, and any improvements thereon, will be sold in an "as is" condition and subject to conditions, restrictions and agreements of record affecting the same, if any, and with no warranty of any kind.

Terms of Sale: A

352 Anne Arundel County

352 Anne Arundel County

BWW Law Group, LLC
6003 Executive Blvd., Suite 101
Rockville, MD 20852
(301) 961-6555

**SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEES' SALE
OF REAL PROPERTY AND
ANY IMPROVEMENTS THEREON**

312 ELIZABETH AVENUE
BALTIMORE A/R/T/A BROOKLYN, MD 21225

Under a power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust dated January 26, 2013, recorded in Liber 25956, Folio 216 among the Land Records of Anne Arundel County, MD, with an original principal balance of \$414,000.00, default having occurred under the terms thereof, the Sub. Trustees will sell at public auction at the Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County, at the Court House Door, 8 Church Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401, on

FEBRUARY 25, 2025 AT 9:17 AM

ALL THAT FEE SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND, together with any buildings or improvements thereon located in Anne Arundel County, MD and more fully described in the aforesaid Deed of Trust.
The property, and any improvements thereon, will be sold in an "as is" condition and subject to conditions, restrictions and agreements of record affecting the same, if any, and with no warranty of any kind.

Terms of Sale: A deposit of \$35,000 in the form of certified check, cashier's check or money order will be required of the purchaser at time and place of sale. Balance of the purchase price, together with interest on the unpaid purchase money at the current rate contained in the Deed of Trust Note, or any modifications thereto, from the date of sale to the date funds are received by the Sub. Trustees, payable in cash within ten days of final ratification of the sale by the Circuit Court. There will be no abatement of interest due to the purchaser in the event additional funds are tendered before settlement. TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE FOR THE PURCHASER. Adjustment of all real property taxes, including agricultural taxes, if applicable, and any and all public and/or private charges or assessments, to the extent such amounts survive foreclosure sale, including water/sewer, ground rent and front foot benefit charges, to be adjusted to date of sale and thereafter assumed by purchaser. Purchaser is responsible for any recapture of homestead tax credit. All transfer taxes and recordation taxes shall be paid by Purchaser. The purchaser shall be responsible for the payment of the ground rent escrow, if required. Condominium fees and/or homeowners association dues, if any, shall be assumed by the purchaser from the date of sale. Purchaser is responsible for obtaining physical possession of the property, and assumes risk of loss or damage to the property from the date of sale. The sale is subject to post-sale audit of the status of the loan with the loan servicer including, but not limited to, determination of whether the borrower entered into any repayment agreement, reinstated or paid off the loan prior to the sale. In any such event, this sale shall be null and void, and the Purchaser's sole remedy, in law or equity, shall be the return of the deposit without interest. If purchaser fails to settle within ten days of ratification, subject to order of court, purchaser agrees that property will be resold and entire deposit retained by Sub. Trustees as liquidated damages for all losses occasioned by the purchaser's default and purchaser shall have no further liability. The purchaser waives personal service of any papers filed in connection with its failure to settle within ten days of ratification and expressly agrees to accept service by first class mail at the address provided by the Purchaser as identified on the Memorandum of Sale. The defaulted purchaser shall not be entitled to any surplus proceeds resulting from said resale even if such surplus results from improvements to the property by said defaulted purchaser. Sub. Trustees will convey either marketable or insurable title. If they cannot deliver one or the other, or if ratification of the sale is denied by the Circuit Court for any reason, the Purchaser's sole remedy, at law or equity, is return of the deposit without interest. (Matter No. 370411-1)

Howard N. Bierman, Carrie M. Ward, et al.,
Substitute Trustees

LICENSE NOS. A000113, A000176, A000177, A000193,
A000424, A000479, A000507, A000508


908 York Road • Towson, MD 21204 • 410.828.4838
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Feb 5,12,19, 20250012483921

TRUSTEE'S SALE
3268 Rolling Road, Edgewater, MD 21037

BWW Law Group, LLC
6003 Executive Blvd., Suite 101
Rockville, MD 20852
(301) 961-6555

**SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEES' SALE
OF REAL PROPERTY AND
ANY IMPROVEMENTS THEREON**

1123 OAK VIEW DRIVE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032

Under a power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust dated October 6, 2005, recorded in Liber 17002, Folio 742 among the Land Records of Anne Arundel County, MD, with an original principal balance of \$362,840.04, default having occurred under the terms thereof, the Sub. Trustees will sell at public auction at the Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County, at the Court House Door, 8 Church Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401, on

FEBRUARY 25, 2025 AT 9:21 AM

ALL THAT FEE SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND, together with any buildings or improvements thereon located in Anne Arundel County, MD and more fully described in the aforesaid Deed of Trust.
The property, and any improvements thereon, will be sold in an "as is" condition and subject to conditions, restrictions and agreements of record affecting the same, if any, and with no warranty of any kind.

Terms of Sale: A deposit of \$42,000 in the form of certified check, cashier's check or money order will be required of the purchaser at time and place of sale. Balance of the purchase price, together with interest on the unpaid purchase money at the current rate contained in the Deed of Trust Note, or any modifications thereto, from the date of sale to the date funds are received by the Sub. Trustees, payable in cash within ten days of final ratification of the sale by the Circuit Court. There will be no abatement of interest due to the purchaser in the event additional funds are tendered before settlement. TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE FOR THE PURCHASER. Adjustment of all real property taxes, including agricultural taxes, if applicable, and any and all public and/or private charges or assessments, to the extent such amounts survive foreclosure sale, including water/sewer, ground rent and front foot benefit charges, to be adjusted to date of sale and thereafter assumed by purchaser. Purchaser is responsible for any recapture of homestead tax credit. All transfer taxes and recordation taxes shall be paid by Purchaser. The purchaser shall be responsible for the payment of the ground rent escrow, if required. Condominium fees and/or homeowners association dues, if any, shall be assumed by the purchaser from the date of sale. Purchaser is responsible for obtaining physical possession of the property, and assumes risk of loss or damage to the property from the date of sale. The sale is subject to post-sale audit of the status of the loan with the loan servicer including, but not limited to, determination of whether the borrower entered into any repayment agreement, reinstated or paid off the loan prior to the sale. In any such event, this sale shall be null and void, and the Purchaser's sole remedy, in law or equity, shall be the return of the deposit without interest. If purchaser fails to settle within ten days of ratification, subject to order of court, purchaser agrees that property will be resold and entire deposit retained by Sub. Trustees as liquidated damages for all losses occasioned by the purchaser's default and purchaser shall have no further liability. The purchaser waives personal service of any papers filed in connection with its failure to settle within ten days of ratification and expressly agrees to accept service by first class mail at the address provided by the Purchaser as identified on the Memorandum of Sale. The defaulted purchaser shall not be entitled to any surplus proceeds resulting from said resale even if such surplus results from improvements to the property by said defaulted purchaser. Sub. Trustees will convey either marketable or insurable title. If they cannot deliver one or the other, or if ratification of the sale is denied by the Circuit Court for any reason, the Purchaser's sole remedy, at law or equity, is return of the deposit without interest. (Matter No. 357183-1)

Howard N. Bierman, Carrie M. Ward, et al.,
Substitute Trustees

LICENSE NOS. A000113, A000176, A000177, A000193,
A000424, A000479, A000507, A000508


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Feb 5,12,19, 20250012483925

352 Anne Arundel County

352 Anne Arundel County

BWW Law Group, LLC
6003 Executive Blvd., Suite 101
Rockville, MD 20852
(301) 961-6555

**SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEES' SALE
OF REAL PROPERTY AND
ANY IMPROVEMENTS THEREON**

2166 COMMISSARY CIRCLE
ODONTON, MD 21113

Under a power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust dated January 9, 2009, recorded in Liber 20617, Folio 664 among the Land Records of Anne Arundel County, MD, with an original principal balance of \$234,000.00, default having occurred under the terms thereof, the Sub. Trustees will sell at public auction at the Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County, at the Court House Door, 8 Church Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401, on


FEBRUARY 25, 2025 AT 9:15 AM

ALL THAT FEE SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND, together with any buildings or improvements thereon located in Anne Arundel County, MD and more fully described in the aforesaid Deed of Trust.
The property, and any improvements thereon, will be sold in an "as is" condition and subject to conditions, restrictions and agreements of record affecting the same, if any, and with no warranty of any kind.

Terms of Sale: A deposit of \$19,000 in the form of certified check, cashier's check or money order will be required of the purchaser at time and place of sale. Balance of the purchase price, together with interest on the unpaid purchase money at the current rate contained in the Deed of Trust Note, or any modifications thereto, from the date of sale to the date funds are received by the Sub. Trustees, payable in cash within ten days of final ratification of the sale by the Circuit Court. There will be no abatement of interest due to the purchaser in the event additional funds are tendered before settlement. TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE FOR THE PURCHASER. Adjustment of all real property taxes, including agricultural taxes, if applicable, and any and all public and/or private charges or assessments, to the extent such amounts survive foreclosure sale, including water/sewer, ground rent and front foot benefit charges, to be adjusted to date of sale and thereafter assumed by purchaser. Purchaser is responsible for any recapture of homestead tax credit. All transfer taxes and recordation taxes shall be paid by Purchaser. The purchaser shall be responsible for the payment of the ground rent escrow, if required. Condominium fees and/or homeowners association dues, if any, shall be assumed by the purchaser from the date of sale. Purchaser is responsible for obtaining physical possession of the property, and assumes risk of loss or damage to the property from the date of sale. The sale is subject to post-sale audit of the status of the loan with the loan servicer including, but not limited to, determination of whether the borrower entered into any repayment agreement, reinstated or paid off the loan prior to the sale. In any such event, this sale shall be null and void, and the Purchaser's sole remedy, in law or equity, shall be the return of the deposit without interest. If purchaser fails to settle within ten days of ratification, subject to order of court, purchaser agrees that property will be resold and entire deposit retained by Sub. Trustees as liquidated damages for all losses occasioned by the purchaser's default and purchaser shall have no further liability. The purchaser waives personal service of any papers filed in connection with its failure to settle within ten days of ratification and expressly agrees to accept service by first class mail at the address provided by the Purchaser as identified on the Memorandum of Sale. The defaulted purchaser shall not be entitled to any surplus proceeds resulting from said resale even if such surplus results from improvements to the property by said defaulted purchaser. Sub. Trustees will convey either marketable or insurable title. If they cannot deliver one or the other, or if ratification of the sale is denied by the Circuit Court for any reason, the Purchaser's sole remedy, at law or equity, is return of the deposit without interest. (Matter No. 370158-1)

Howard N. Bierman, Carrie M. Ward, et al.,
Substitute Trustees

LICENSE NOS. A000113, A000176, A000177, A000193,
A000424, A000479, A000507, A000508


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Feb 5,12,19, 20250012483920

TRUSTEE'S SALE
3268 Rolling Road, Edgewater, MD 21037

Trustee's Sale of valuable fee simple property improved by premises known as 3268 Rolling Road, Edgewater, MD 21037. By virtue of the power and authority contained in a Deed of Trust, dated November 24, 2015, and recorded in Liber 29090 at Page 76 among the land records of the County of Anne Arundel, in the original principal amount of \$435,000.00. Upon default and request for sale, the undersigned trustees will offer for sale at public auction at the Courthouse for the COUNTY OF ANNE ARUNDEL, at 8 Church Circle, Annapolis, Maryland, on **March 4, 2025 at 4:00 PM**, all that property described in said Deed of Trust including but not limited to:

Tax ID# 01-000-05195400

Said property is in fee simple and is improved by a dwelling and is sold in "as is condition" and subject to all superior covenants, conditions, liens, restrictions, easement, rights-of-way, as may affect same, if any.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of 10% of the sale price, cash or certified funds shall be required at the time of sale. The balance of the purchase price with interest at 6.00% per annum from the date of sale to the date of payment will be paid within TEN DAYS after the final ratification of the sale.

Adjustments on all taxes, public charges and special or regular assessments will be made as of the date of sale and thereafter assumed by purchaser.

If applicable, condominium and/or homeowners association dues and assessments that may become due after the time of sale will be the responsibility of the purchaser. Title examination, conveying, state revenue stamps, transfer taxes, title insurance, and all other costs incident to settlement are to be paid by the purchaser. Time is of the essence for the purchaser, otherwise the deposit will be forfeited and the property may be resold at risk and costs of the defaulting purchaser. If the sale is not ratified or if the Substitute Trustees are unable to convey marketable title in accord with these terms of sale, the purchaser's only remedy is the return of the deposit. Trustee's File No. 23-293845.

William M. Savage, et al., Substitute Trustees.

LOGS LEGAL GROUP LLP,
Mailing Address: 10130 Perimeter Parkway, Suite 400,
Charlotte, North Carolina 28216
(410) 769-9797

A181, A316, A311, A183, A425, A426, A461, A463, A508


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352 Anne Arundel County

352 Anne Arundel County

TRUSTEE'S SALE
352 Gateway Crt Unit A,
Glen Burnie, MD 21060

Trustee's Sale of valuable fee simple property improved by premises known as 352 Gateway Crt Unit A, Glen Burnie, MD 21060. By virtue of the power and authority contained in a Deed of Trust, dated September 1, 2009, and recorded in Liber 21564 at Page 50 among the land records of the County of Anne Arundel, in the original principal amount of \$138,888.00. Upon default and request for sale, the undersigned trustees will offer for sale at public auction at the Courthouse for the COUNTY OF ANNE ARUNDEL, at 8 Church Circle, Annapolis, Maryland, on **March 4, 2025 at 4:00 PM**, all that property described in said Deed of Trust including but not limited to:

Tax ID# 05-319-05475404

Said property is in fee simple and is improved by a dwelling and is sold in "as is condition" and subject to all superior covenants, conditions, liens, restrictions, easement, rights-of-way, as may affect same, if any.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of 10% of the sale price, cash or certified funds shall be required at the time of sale. The balance of the purchase price with interest at 6.00% per annum from the date of sale to the date of payment will be paid within TEN DAYS after the final ratification of the sale.

Adjustments on all taxes, public charges and special or regular assessments will be made as of the date of sale and thereafter assumed by purchaser.

If applicable, condominium and/or homeowners association dues and assessments that may become due after the time of sale will be the responsibility of the purchaser. Title examination, conveying, state revenue stamps, transfer taxes, title insurance, and all other costs incident to settlement are to be paid by the purchaser. Time is of the essence for the purchaser, otherwise the deposit will be forfeited and the property may be resold at risk and costs of the defaulting purchaser. If the sale is not ratified or if the Substitute Trustees are unable to convey marketable title in accord with these terms of sale, the purchaser's only remedy is the return of the deposit. Trustee's File No. 24-296312.

William M. Savage, et al., Substitute Trustees.

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Charlotte, North Carolina 28216
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A181, A316, A311, A183, A425, A426, A461, A463, A508


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Feb 12,19,26, 20250012482153

TRUSTEE'S SALE
1 Windward Dr, Severna Park, MD 21146

Trustee's Sale of valuable fee simple property improved by premises known as 1 Windward Dr, Severna Park, MD 21146. By virtue of the power and authority contained in a Deed of Trust, dated October 23, 2019, and recorded in Liber 33820 at Page 74 among the land records of the County of Anne Arundel, in the original principal amount of \$466,916.00. Upon default and request for sale, the undersigned trustees will offer for sale at public auction at the Courthouse for the COUNTY OF ANNE ARUNDEL, at 8 Church Circle, Annapolis, Maryland, on **March 4, 2025 at 4:00 PM**, all that property described in said Deed of Trust including but not limited to:

Tax ID# 03-436-28484000

Said property is in fee simple and is improved by a dwelling and is sold in "as is condition" and subject to all superior covenants, conditions, liens, restrictions, easement, rights-of-way, as may affect same, if any.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of 10% of the sale price, cash or certified funds shall be required at the time of sale. The balance of the purchase price with interest at 6.00% per annum from the date of sale to the date of payment will be paid within TEN DAYS after the final ratification of the sale.

Adjustments on all taxes, public charges and special or regular assessments will be made as of the date of sale and thereafter assumed by purchaser.

If applicable, condominium and/or homeowners association dues and assessments that may become due after the time of sale will be the responsibility of the purchaser. Title examination, conveying, state revenue stamps, transfer taxes, title insurance, and all other costs incident to settlement are to be paid by the purchaser. Time is of the essence for the purchaser, otherwise the deposit will be forfeited and the property may be resold at risk and costs of the defaulting purchaser. If the sale is not ratified or if the Substitute Trustees are unable to convey marketable title in accord with these terms of sale, the purchaser's only remedy is the return of the deposit. Trustee's File No. 22-292455.

William M. Savage, et al., Substitute Trustees

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Feb 12,19,26, 20250012482336

TRUSTEE'S SALE
630 Binsted Rd, Glen Burnie, MD 21060

Trustee's Sale of valuable fee simple property improved by premises known as 630 Binsted Rd, Glen Burnie, MD 21060. By virtue of the power and authority contained in a Deed of Trust, dated June 13, 2003, and recorded in Liber 13259 at Page 738 among the land records of the County of Anne Arundel, in the original principal amount of \$125,200.00. Upon default and request for sale, the undersigned trustees will offer for sale at public auction at the Courthouse for the COUNTY OF ANNE ARUNDEL, at 8 Church Circle, Annapolis, Maryland, on **March 4, 2025 at 4:00 PM**, all that property described in said Deed of Trust including but not limited to:

Tax ID# 03-418-01814400

Said property is in fee simple and is improved by a dwelling and is sold in "as is condition" and subject to all superior covenants, conditions, liens, restrictions, easement, rights-of-way, as may affect same, if any.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of 10% of the sale price, cash or certified funds shall be required at the time of sale. The balance of the purchase price with interest at 6.00% per annum from the date of sale to the date of payment will be paid within TEN DAYS after the final ratification of the sale.

Adjustments on all taxes, public charges and special or regular assessments will be made as of the date of sale and thereafter assumed by purchaser.

If applicable, condominium and/or homeowners association dues and assessments that may become due after the time of sale will be the responsibility of the purchaser. Title examination, conveying, state revenue stamps, transfer taxes, title insurance, and all other costs incident to settlement are to be paid by the purchaser. Time is of the essence for the purchaser, otherwise the deposit will be forfeited and the property may be resold at risk and costs of the defaulting purchaser. If the sale is not ratified or if the Substitute Trustees are unable to convey marketable title in accord with these terms of sale, the purchaser's only remedy is the return of the deposit. Trustee's File No. 21-289629.

William M. Savage, et al., Substitute Trustees.

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Feb 12,19,26, 20250012482514

353 Calvert County

353 Calvert County

BWW Law Group, LLC
6003 Executive Blvd., Suite 101
Rockville, MD 20852
(301) 961-6555

**SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEES' SALE
OF REAL PROPERTY AND
ANY IMPROVEMENTS THEREON**

3380 PLUM POINT ROAD
HUNTINGTOWN, MD 20639


Under a power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust dated September 16, 2004, recorded in Liber 2331, Folio 534 among the Land Records of Calvert County, MD, with an original principal balance of \$278,600.00, default having occurred under the terms thereof, the Sub. Trustees will sell at public auction at the Circuit Court for Calvert County, at the Court House Door, 175 Main St., Prince Frederick, MD 20678, on

FEBRUARY 25, 2025 AT 2:32 PM

ALL THAT FEE SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND, together with any buildings or improvements thereon located in Calvert County, MD and more fully described in the aforesaid Deed of Trust.
The property, and any improvements thereon, will be sold in an "as is" condition and subject to conditions, restrictions and agreements of record affecting the same, if any, and with no warranty of any kind.

Terms of Sale: A deposit of \$38,000 in the form of certified check, cashier's check or money order will be required of the purchaser at time and place of sale. Balance of the purchase price, together with interest on the unpaid purchase money at the current rate contained in the Deed of Trust Note, or any modifications thereto, from the date of sale to the date funds are received by the Sub. Trustees, payable in cash within ten days of final ratification of the sale by the Circuit Court. There will be no abatement of interest due to the purchaser in the event additional funds are tendered before settlement. TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE FOR THE PURCHASER. Adjustment of all real property taxes, including agricultural taxes, if applicable, and any and all public and/or private charges or assessments, to the extent such amounts survive foreclosure sale, including water/sewer, ground rent and front foot benefit charges, to be adjusted to date of sale and thereafter assumed by purchaser. Purchaser is responsible for any recapture of homestead tax credit. All transfer taxes and recordation taxes shall be paid by Purchaser. The purchaser shall be responsible for the payment of the ground rent escrow, if required. Condominium fees and/or homeowners association dues, if any, shall be assumed by the purchaser from the date of sale. Purchaser is responsible for obtaining physical possession of the property, and assumes risk of loss or damage to the property from the date of sale. The sale is subject to post-sale audit of the status of the loan with the loan servicer including, but not limited to, determination of whether the borrower entered into any repayment agreement, reinstated or paid off the loan prior to the sale. In any such event, this sale shall be null and void, and the Purchaser's sole remedy, in law or equity, shall be the return of the deposit without interest. If purchaser fails to settle within ten days of ratification, subject to order of court, purchaser agrees that property will be resold and entire deposit retained by Sub. Trustees as liquidated damages for all losses occasioned by the purchaser's default and purchaser shall have no further liability. The purchaser waives personal service of any papers filed in connection with its failure to settle within ten days of ratification and expressly agrees to accept service by first class mail at the address provided by the Purchaser as identified on the Memorandum of Sale. The defaulted purchaser shall not be entitled to any surplus proceeds resulting from said resale even if such surplus results from improvements to the property by said defaulted purchaser. Sub. Trustees will convey either marketable or insurable title. If they cannot deliver one or the other, or if ratification of the sale is denied by the Circuit Court for any reason, the Purchaser's sole remedy, at law or equity, is return of the deposit without interest. (Matter No. 84803-1)

Howard N. Bierman, Carrie M. Ward, et al.,
Substitute Trustees


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Feb 5,12,19, 20250012483942

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(301) 961-6555

**SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEES' SALE
OF REAL PROPERTY AND
ANY IMPROVEMENTS THEREON**

8986 CHESAPEAKE LIGHTHOUSE DRIVE
NORTH BEACH, MD 20714


Under a power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust dated May 1, 2006, recorded in Liber 2759, Folio 345 among the Land Records of Calvert County, MD, with an original principal balance of \$244,000.00, default having occurred under the terms thereof, the Sub. Trustees will sell at public auction at the Circuit Court for Calvert County, at the Court House Door, 175 Main St., Prince Frederick, MD 20678, on

FEBRUARY 25, 2025 AT 2:30 PM

ALL THAT FEE SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND, together with any buildings or improvements thereon located in Calvert County, MD and more fully described in the aforesaid Deed of Trust.
The property, and any improvements thereon, will be sold in an "as is" condition and subject to conditions, restrictions and agreements of record affecting the same, if any, and with no warranty of any kind.

Terms of Sale: A deposit of \$26,000 in the form of certified check, cashier's check or money order will be required of the purchaser at time and place of sale. Balance of the purchase price, together with interest on the unpaid purchase money at the current rate contained in the Deed of Trust Note, or any modifications thereto, from the date of sale to the date funds are received by the Sub. Trustees, payable in cash within ten days of final ratification of the sale by the Circuit Court. There will be no abatement of interest due to the purchaser in the event additional funds are tendered before settlement. TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE FOR THE PURCHASER. Adjustment of all real property taxes, including agricultural taxes, if applicable, and any and all public and/or private charges or assessments, to the extent such amounts survive foreclosure sale, including water/sewer, ground rent and front foot benefit charges, to be adjusted to date of sale and thereafter assumed by purchaser. Purchaser is responsible for any recapture of homestead tax credit. All transfer taxes and recordation taxes shall be paid by Purchaser. The purchaser shall be responsible for the payment of the ground rent escrow, if required. Condominium fees and/or homeowners association dues, if any, shall be assumed by the purchaser from the date of sale. Purchaser is responsible for obtaining physical possession of the property, and assumes risk of loss or damage to the property from the date of sale. The sale is subject to post-sale audit of the status of the loan with the loan servicer including, but not limited to, determination of whether the borrower entered into any repayment agreement, reinstated or paid off the loan prior to the sale. In any such event, this sale shall be null and void, and the Purchaser's sole remedy, in law or equity, shall be the return of the deposit without interest. If purchaser fails to settle within ten days of ratification, subject to order of court, purchaser agrees that property will be resold and entire deposit retained by Sub. Trustees as liquidated damages for all losses occasioned by the purchaser's default and purchaser shall have no further liability. The purchaser waives personal service of any papers filed in connection with its failure to settle within ten days of ratification and expressly agrees to accept service by first class mail at the address provided by the Purchaser as identified on the Memorandum of Sale. The defaulted purchaser shall not be entitled to any surplus proceeds resulting from said resale even if such surplus results from improvements to the property by said defaulted purchaser. Sub. Trustees will convey either marketable or insurable title. If they cannot deliver one or the other, or if ratification of the sale is denied by the Circuit Court for any reason, the Purchaser's sole remedy, at law or equity, is return of the deposit without interest. (Matter No. 371726-1)

Howard N. Bierman, Carrie M. Ward, et al.,
Substitute Trustees


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Feb 5,12,19, 20250012483941

353 Calvert County

353 Calvert County

TRUSTEE'S SALE
12106 Long Wolf Lane, Lusby, MD 20685

Trustee's Sale of valuable fee simple property improved by premises known as 12106 Long Wolf Lane, Lusby, MD 20685. By virtue of the power and authority contained in a Deed of Trust, dated May 3, 2019, and recorded in Liber 5362 at Page 327 among the land records of the County of Calvert, in the original principal amount of \$320,849.00. Upon default and request for sale, the undersigned trustees will offer for sale at public auction at the Courthouse for the COUNTY OF CALVERT, at 175 Main Street, Prince Frederick, Maryland, on **March 4, 2025 at 9:30 AM**, all that property described in said Deed of Trust including but not limited to:

Tax ID# 01-233653

Said property is in fee simple and is improved by a dwelling and is sold in "as is condition" and subject to all superior covenants, conditions, liens, restrictions, easement, rights-of-way, as may affect same, if any.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of 10% of the sale price, cash or certified funds shall be required at the time of sale. The balance of the purchase price with interest at 6.00% per annum from the date of sale to the date of payment will be paid within TEN DAYS after the final ratification of the sale.

Adjustments on all taxes, public charges and special or regular assessments will be made as of the date of sale and thereafter assumed by purchaser.

If applicable, condominium and/or homeowners association dues and assessments that may become due after the time of sale will be the responsibility of the purchaser. Title examination, conveying, state revenue stamps, transfer taxes, title insurance, and all other costs incident to settlement are to be paid by the purchaser. Time is of the essence for the purchaser, otherwise the deposit will be forfeited and the property may be resold at risk and costs of the defaulting purchaser. If the sale is not ratified or if the Substitute Trustees are unable to convey marketable title in accord with these terms of sale, the purchaser's only remedy is the return of the deposit. Trustee's File No. 22-290761.

William M. Savage, et al., Substitute Trustees.

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D 20852
-6555

**STEES' SALE
PROPERTY AND
ITEMS THEREON**

**BRIDGES ROAD
MD 20640**

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Folio 280 among the Land
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Subject to post-sale audit of the loan servicer including, but not limited to, the determination of whether the borrower has made the required payment agreement, reinstated or paid in full any such event, this sale shall constitute the Purchaser's sole remedy. In the event of the return of the deposit without the required payment, the servicer shall settle within ten days of the date of the court order. The purchaser agrees that the deposit shall be retained by the servicer for all losses occasioned by the borrower. The purchaser shall have no further claim against the servicer's personal service of any such event. In the event of its failure to settle within ten days of the date of the court order, the servicer agrees to accept service of the court order. The purchaser is provided by the Purchaser with a copy of the Purchase Agreement of Sale. The defaulted

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**STEESE'S SALE
PROPERTY AND
INTERESTS THEREON**

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taxes, including agricultural and all public and/or private taxes, including such amounts survive the transfer of the property. The transferor/sewer, ground rent and other taxes shall be adjusted to date of sale and shall be paid by Purchaser. Purchaser is responsible for the payment of the transfer tax credit. All transfer taxes shall be paid by Purchaser. Purchaser is responsible for the payment of the transfer taxes. Condominium fees and/or other fees, if any, shall be assumed by Purchaser at date of sale. Purchaser is responsible for the physical possession of the property and for any loss or damage to the property. Purchaser is subject to post-sale audit by the lender. The loan servicer including

of whether the borrower reeminent, reinstated or paid in any such event, this sale is Purchaser's sole remedy. Upon return of the deposit without settlement within ten days of court, purchaser agrees that the deposit retained by Sub. for all losses occasioned by purchaser shall have no further personal service of any failure to settle within ten days agrees to accept service is provided by the Purchaser of Sale. The defaulted to any surplus proceeds if such surplus results from

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Desserts that are out of this world

At Moon Rabbit, pastry chef Susan Bae is known for her delightfully different treats

BY CAREY POLIS

‘E’very single table orders at least one dessert,” says Susan Bae, arguably the most inventive pastry chef in the Washington restaurant scene right now.

This makes sense. The savory offerings at Moon Rabbit are reason enough to visit the Vietnamese-inspired standout restaurant in the heart of Penn Quarter — but Bae’s desserts are unmissable. All five choices on the dinner menu feature multiple sweet and savory flavors mingling intimately together, with several different textures. While they veer close to a much-too-muchness cliff, they never go off the edge.

If chef Kevin Tien’s cooking is the reason people go to Moon Rabbit, Bae’s desserts are why they return. Eating one of her creations is a delightfully confusing experience: Each bite offers a different taste than the one before.

“As the chef, I would say you should save room on the savory and eat more desserts,” Tien said. “If you order too much savory food, I might tell you to not order it and make sure you get Susan’s food.”

SEE SUSAN BAE ON E5



PHOTOS BY REY LOPEZ FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

“I’m really big on texture,” says pastry chef Susan Bae, seen above. Her Curry dessert, seen at far left, a sponge cake made with green curry, features caramel made with fish sauce, as well as finger lime and dill. At left, the Tofu dessert features tofu cheesecake, charred miso anglaise, Jimmy Nardello pepper jam and fermented soy.



DINNER IN MINUTES

Chicken in creamy tomato sauce is an easy dish that’s company-worthy. **E3**

WEEKNIGHT VEGETARIAN

These “tuna” melts evoke the seafood salad without there being any fish. **E2**

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Vegetable-Loaded American Goulash **E4**

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Make a game-day spread pop with these shishito tacos



G. Daniela Galarza

EAT
VORACIOUSLY

fried thing — alongside a few beers — have fortified fans through countless wins and losses. But it wasn’t until the 1990s that bars across the United States regularly started offering what is arguably the ideal complement to an emotional game, a happy throuple of crunch, spice and hot cheese: the jalapeño

popper.

Essentially a chile relleno, the popper can be prepared in a few ways. Some stuff a whole jalapeño with cheese, batter it, bread it and deep-fry it. Others split the pepper in half, seed it, stuff it and bake it. And still others wrap the stuffed pepper in bacon before baking or frying. The genius of the popper is that the stuffing — typically cream cheese — tames the brash heat of the jalapeño.

But, as I found when testing jalapeño popper tacos in August, even if you love spice, an aggressive jalapeño can

SEE TACOS ON E2

RECIPE
Shishito Popper Tacos **E2**



REY LOPEZ FOR THE WASHINGTON POST; FOOD STYLING BY MARIE OSTROSKY FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

These ‘tuna’ melts show vegan cooking can be about abundance, too



Joe Yonan
WEEKNIGHT
VEGETARIAN

Jenné Claiborne has me thinking about Vertamae Smart-Grosvenor and the idea of vibrations.

Claiborne, who just turned 38, writes about vegan cooking from her home in Atlanta under the brand Sweet Potato Soul. Smart-Grosvenor, who died in 2016 at age 79, was the Geechee poet, broadcaster and culinary anthropologist who wrote the seminal 1970 book “Vibration Cooking.” (In it, she wrote: “When I cook, I never measure or weigh anything. I cook by vibration.”)

I met Smart-Grosvenor more than a decade ago, when she won a lifetime achievement award from the Southern Foodways Alliance at its annual symposium in Oxford, Mississippi, and I was struck by her regal presence as she took the stage and enraptured the audience. She was the type of woman people called a “force of nature,” and I immediately understood why.

I’m remembering the scene now because Claiborne’s latest cookbook is “Sweet Potato Soul Vegan Vibes,” a celebration of the energy and positivity that she attributes to the vegan diet and lifestyle she adopted 14 years ago. “I just want to help people feel the same way I feel,” she told me.

In recent years, the term “vibes” and its related phrases have become so commonplace as to perhaps have lost some of the word’s original meaning. But as soon as Claiborne and I started our Zoom interview to talk about her book, and her energy radiated through the screen, I started to make the connections. Claiborne is nothing if not vibrant, and to be vibrant is to vibrate, to buzz — to be alive. She didn’t know Smart-Grosvenor, but I have a feeling the two would’ve had a lot to talk about.

Claiborne is a force in her own right. She has drawn legions of fans to her Sweet Potato Soul

website and the 2018 cookbook of the same name, which were inspired by her grandmother. When Claiborne was a girl, her grandmother would tell her: “You gotta put soul in everything, even if it’s not soul food,” she told me. “Everything is soul food, really, if you put love and soul into it.” Does that sound like vibrations, or what?

Her new book doubles down on the idea that vegan cooking can be about abundance, not limitation, that taking animal products off the table can inspire you to explore all the ways vegetables can be more than merely satisfying. And that if you learn to cook, it doesn’t need to cost more money — or take more time — than being an omnivore.

Take my current favorite recipe from her book, the one I’m sharing here: It’s a vegan take on a tuna melt, with finely shredded carrots and mashed chickpeas standing in for the tuna. Much of the flavor comes from a combination of ume plum vinegar (a Japanese staple and one of Claiborne’s favorite ingredients), celery seeds, dill and seaweed flakes, while the carrot shreds evoke the texture of well-blended tuna salad. You would be happy spooning the mixture onto bread for a cold sandwich anytime, but this recipe takes it further into comfort-food territory by adding a little vegan cheese and toasting the sandwiches in the oven.

It’s the kind of simple-but-brilliant recipe that has earned Claiborne her well-deserved reputation. Bonus: Apparently even a hungry, omnivorous teenager gets the appeal. I hadn’t planned to serve the sandwich to mine, but I had a couple left after my husband and I devoured ours, and he was taking a break from Instagram scrolling to scavenge in the kitchen. He ate one, proclaimed it “pretty *good*” (his term for something outstanding), then asked whether he could have the other one.

Was it the sandwich, or was it the vibes? I like to think it was both.



PHOTOS BY TOM MCCORKLE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST; FOOD STYLING BY GINA NISTICO FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Carrot and Chickpea “Tuna” Melts

4 servings (makes 4 sandwiches)

In this vegan take on a tuna melt, finely shredded carrots and mashed chickpeas join forces with seaweed flakes, dill and other ingredients that help evoke the flavor of tuna salad. Cookbook author Jenné Claiborne was inspired by the carrot “tuna” at Tassili’s Raw Reality, a restaurant in Atlanta. The mixture is also great on a cold sandwich, without the cheese.

Storage: Refrigerate the salad for up to 4 days.

Where to buy: Ume plum vinegar and dulse seaweed flakes can be found in Asian markets, natural foods stores, well-stocked supermarkets and online.

Active time: 25 mins; **Total time:** 35 mins

Adapted from “Sweet Potato Soul Vegan Vibes” by Jenné Claiborne (Rodale, 2025).

Ingredients

- One (15-ounce) can no-salt-added chickpeas, drained and rinsed
- 2 medium carrots (6 ounces total), scrubbed
- ½ cup vegan mayonnaise
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh dill
- 2 teaspoons Dijon mustard
- 2 teaspoons ume plum vinegar, plus more to taste (see Where to buy)
- 2 teaspoons dulse seaweed flakes (see Where to buy)
- 1 teaspoon celery seeds
- Fine salt
- 8 teaspoons olive oil
- 8 slices sourdough or other sandwich bread

- 4 slices nondairy cheese, preferably Daiya or Violife brand

Steps

- Position a rack in the middle of the oven and preheat to 375 degrees.
- In a large bowl, use a fork to coarsely mash the chickpeas.
- Using the fine side of a box grater, shred the carrots. Add them to the bowl with the chickpeas. Add the vegan mayonnaise, dill, mustard, vinegar, dulse and celery seeds, and stir to thoroughly combine. Taste, and season with more vinegar and salt, if desired.



Finely grating the carrots gives the sandwich filling for these melts the right texture, evoking the feeling of a well-blended tuna salad.

- Build the sandwiches: On a large sheet pan, brush 1 teaspoon of the olive oil on one side of each of the bread slices, and arrange the slices oil side down. Top half of the slices with a slice of vegan cheese and about ½ cup of the chickpea mixture. Top the sandwiches with the remaining bread slices, oil side up.
- Bake for about 10 minutes, flipping the sandwiches halfway through, or until the bread is golden brown and the cheese is starting to melt. Serve warm.

Substitutions

- Chickpeas >> cannellini, navy or other white beans.
- Canned beans >> 1½ cups home-cooked beans.
- Ume plum vinegar >> rice vinegar, preferably unseasoned.
- Dulse flakes >> any other seaweed flakes (nori, wakame or a blend), or omit.
- Celery seeds >> dill seeds.

Nutrition | Per sandwich: 515 calories, 52g carbohydrates, 0mg cholesterol, 28g fat, 6g fiber, 12g protein, 4g saturated fat, 856mg sodium, 5g sugar

Recipe tested by Joe Yonan; email questions to food@washpost.com



REY LOPEZ FOR THE WASHINGTON POST; FOOD STYLING BY MARIE OSTROSKY FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

A cream cheese filling gets added to halved shishito peppers, which are then set atop small corn tortillas and topped with shredded cheese.

You’ll get a kick out of these shishito popper tacos

TACOS FROM E1

overwhelm the senses.

Not so the shishito pepper, the mild-mannered Tom Hanks to Joe Pesci’s spicy jalapeño. Japan’s fingerlike green chile is famously tame; it is said that only 1 out of every 10 or 20 packs any heat. I wondered why it’s sometimes translated as “lion pepper,” and I soon found out: According to several sources, including a booklet produced by a financial institution that supports farmers in Kochi, if you squint

at the apex of a shishito, you might see the creased face of a shisha, one of the guardian lion-dog statues that flank entrances and peer out from rooftops throughout the Okinawa prefecture. The chile’s name is a portmanteau of shisha and togarashi, the Japanese word for pepper.

I knew what I had to do: Make a batch of shishito rellenos and put them in tortillas.

First, I tried battering, breading and frying them. Though these were delicious,

they were also far too messy. Stuffed, wrapped in bacon and baked, the shishito poppers were also good, though harder to eat and very greasy.

The easiest variation of the popper also turned out to be my favorite: First, I mixed cream cheese with garlic powder and chopped cilantro. I felt as if it needed a little something, so I added finely chopped pickled jalapeños, as a nod to the original. I halved the peppers lengthwise, stuffed them with the cream cheese filling, set them atop small corn tortillas,

topped everything with shredded cheese and baked them until the peppers softened, the cream cheese turned molten, and the shredded cheese melted and crisped around the edges.

Ideal for game night — or any night — this popper taco is easy to make *and* easy to eat. A win-win.

This is from our Eat Voraciously newsletter, which delivers a quick dinner recipe four days a week, Monday through Thursday. Sign up at wapo.st/evnewsletter.

Shishito Popper Tacos

4 servings (makes 12 tacos)

Inspired by jalapeño poppers — a popular bar and game-day snack — these shishito pepper tacos are well-suited for a crowd. Mild shishitos turn silky when they’re stuffed with a savory cream cheese mixture, topped with shredded cheese and baked on top of tortillas. If you can’t find shishitos, you can use Padrón peppers, which are a little bit spicier. If you really like the heat, use jalapeños or serranos.

Especially if serving as part of a party spread, look for 4-inch tortillas. If they’re not available, 6-inch tortillas also work.

Storage: These are best eaten as soon as they are made.

Where to buy: Shishito peppers can be found at well-stocked supermarkets or Asian markets.

Total time: 20 mins

From staff writer G. Daniela Galarza.

Ingredients

- Twelve (4- or 6-inch) corn tortillas
- 2 tablespoons water
- 2 tablespoons neutral oil, such as vegetable or canola, plus more as needed
- ¼ cup (2 ounces) plain cream cheese
- 2 tablespoons finely chopped pickled jalapeños (optional)
- 2 teaspoons fresh cilantro leaves and tender stems, finely chopped, plus more for serving (optional)
- ½ teaspoon garlic powder
- 12 fresh shishito or Padrón peppers, stemmed, halved lengthwise and seeded
- 1½ cups (6 ounces) grated Muenster, cheddar or Mexican cheese blend

Steps

- Position a rack in the middle of the oven and preheat to 400 degrees. Line a large sheet pan with foil, if desired.
- Using a pastry brush or your fingers, lightly moisten each tortilla with the water on both sides. Then, lightly brush each tortilla with the oil on both sides, using more, if needed. Arrange the tortillas in a single layer on the prepared sheet pan; some overlap is okay. (If using 6-inch tortillas, you may need to do this in two batches, or use two sheet pans with racks in the upper and lower thirds of the oven.)
- In a small bowl, stir together the cream cheese, the pickled jalapeños and cilantro, if using, and the garlic powder. Using a small spoon or your fingers, stuff each shishito half with 2 to 3 teaspoons of the cream cheese mixture.

- Place 2 of the stuffed pepper halves in the center of each tortilla. Sprinkle about 2 tablespoons of the cheese over each pepper, letting some of it fall on the tortilla as well.
- Bake, rotating the pan from front to back halfway through, for 10 minutes, or until the cheese is melted and bubbly and everything is hot. (If using two sheet pans, you will need to rotate the sheet pans from front to back and top to bottom.) Sprinkle with additional cilantro, if desired, and serve immediately.

Substitutions

- Corn tortillas >> flour tortillas. If you use flour tortillas, no need to moisten them with water or oil. Instead, lightly grease the sheet pan or foil.
- Cream cheese >> ricotta or fresh goat cheese (chèvre).
- Pickled jalapeños >> pickled onions or cucumbers. Kimchi would be good, too.
- Fresh cilantro >> fresh parsley, minced garlic or thinly sliced scallions.
- Garlic powder >> onion powder or ground cumin.

Variations

- You can make these with jalapeños or serranos, but they will be significantly spicier. You can also make them with mini bell peppers, if you want something without any heat.
- In addition to, or in place of, the pickled jalapeños, you could add 2 tablespoons of bacon bits.

Nutrition | Per serving (3 tacos): 395 calories, 27g carbohydrates, 55mg cholesterol, 26g fat, 1g fiber, 14g protein, 12g saturated fat, 364mg sodium, 2g sugar

Recipe tested by G. Daniela Galarza; email questions to food@washpost.com

Chicken in a creamy sauce is right at home at a cozy get-together



Aaron Hutcherson
DINNER IN MINUTES

It takes time to adjust to living in a new city. January marks the three-year anniversary of my move to Washington, and I finally feel like I've fully settled in. I was often ambivalent about the move in the beginning, but now I can say with confidence that I really enjoy being in D.C., and that's largely thanks to the community I've cultivated.

While I am fortunate to have a good number of close friends across the country, I didn't arrive with many in my new home. Making friends takes time — hundreds of hours of time spent together for an acquaintance to become a close friend, even. An easy way to accrue those hours is by doing everyday, ordinary activities together, such as sharing a meal. If you're looking to build community or deepen the relationships you already have, invite someone over for dinner and serve something simple but flavorful, like this creamy tomato chicken recipe.

"Inviting someone over for dinner" is not the same thing as "hosting a dinner party." The latter can often feel like a big to-do, requiring a picture-perfect tablescape and a pristinely clean home (for me, at least). The former is a much more casual and laid-back affair, with whatever dishes are clean and maybe a pile of laundry in the corner. And in terms of the food itself, there's no need for anything particularly elaborate. This chicken recipe, which comes together in half an hour, would be right at home.

Simply seasoned boneless, skinless chicken breasts are cooked in a skillet just until

browned on each side. In that same skillet, you begin building the sauce by sautéing shallots, followed by garlic, dried herbs and a pinch of crushed red pepper flakes for a background note of spice. Tomato paste adds a boost of umami, plus sweetness and acidity, which are buoyed by dry white wine that gets reduced to concentrate the flavor. Heavy cream finishes the luscious sauce, to which the chicken is added to finish cooking all the way through. A sprinkling of chopped parsley adds a verdant, refreshing flourish.

It's a relatively simple set of ingredients — many of which you probably already have — but one taste, and you'll see that this combination punches above its weight in flavor. And it's aesthetically pleasing to boot. (I've never seen more excited responses to a recipe test photo I shared on social media.) Boil some pasta, rice or another grain; steam or roast your favorite vegetables; set out a few glasses to pour the rest of the bottle of wine; and all that's missing are new acquaintances, old friends, roommates or family to join you at the dinner table for a few moments of connection.

"Research shows close relationships are essential to a healthy life," Washington Post reporter Teddy Amenabar wrote. "People with a network of close, supportive relationships are better able to deal with bouts of anxiety and depression. The working theory is that close friendships help us regulate our stress during challenging moments."

Every day brings new challenges, but my resolution is a simple and rewarding one: Invite people over for dinner more often to help me — help us — get through.

Chicken Breasts in Creamy Tomato Sauce

4 servings

This recipe features boneless, skinless chicken breasts cooked in a skillet with a creamy tomato sauce. The sauce is flavored with shallots, garlic, herbs, white wine and a pinch of crushed red pepper flakes for a touch of spice. The entire recipe comes together in just about half an hour, making it suitable for any night of the week.

Storage: Refrigerate for up to 3 days.

Total time: 30 mins

From staff writer Aaron Hutcherson.

Ingredients

- 2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- 4 boneless, skinless chicken breasts (2 pounds total)
- Fine salt
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 2 medium shallots (6 ounces total), halved and thinly sliced
- 2 garlic cloves, minced or finely grated
- 1 teaspoon Italian seasoning blend
- 1/8 teaspoon crushed red pepper flakes (optional)
- 2 tablespoons tomato paste
- 3/4 cup dry white wine, such as pinot grigio
- 1 cup heavy cream
- Chopped fresh flat-leaf parsley leaves, for serving
- Cooked pasta, rice or other grain, for serving

Steps

- In a large (12-inch) skillet or sauté pan over medium-high heat, heat the oil until shimmering. Set a large plate or platter and a lid for the skillet or sauté pan near your workspace.
- Pat the chicken dry, sprinkle both sides with salt and pepper, then add to the skillet and cook until golden brown on both sides, 4 to 5 minutes per side. (The chicken may not be fully cooked at this point.) Transfer the chicken to the prepared

plate or platter.

- Add the shallots to the skillet and cook, stirring occasionally, until they start to soften, about 2 minutes. Add the garlic, Italian seasoning and crushed red pepper flakes, if using, and cook, stirring once or twice, until fragrant, 30 to 60 seconds. Stir in the tomato paste until evenly incorporated.
- Add the wine, scraping up any browned bits at the bottom of the skillet, and cook until reduced by about half, 1 to 2 minutes. Stir in the cream. Taste, and season the sauce with salt and pepper, as desired.
- Return the chicken, along with any accumulated juices, to the skillet and bring to a simmer. Partially cover the skillet with a lid, reduce the heat to medium and cook until an instant-read thermometer inserted into the thickest part of the breast registers 165 degrees, about 5 minutes, flipping the chicken halfway through. Remove from the heat. Sprinkle the chicken with parsley and serve hot with pasta, rice or another grain.

Substitutions

- Boneless, skinless chicken breasts >> boneless, skinless chicken thighs.
- Shallots >> any type of onion.
- Italian seasoning blend >> your



PHOTOS BY PEGGY CORMARY FOR THE WASHINGTON POST; FOOD STYLING BY CAROLYN ROBB FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

- favorite dried herb, or a mix.
- White wine >> chicken broth or stock with a splash of vinegar or lemon juice, and a pinch of sugar.
- Heavy cream >> crème fraîche.
- Parsley >> basil.
- Want more vegetables? >> Stir spinach or chard leaves into the sauce until wilted just before returning the chicken to the pan.

Nutrition | Per serving (1 chicken breast with sauce): 559 calories, 10g carbohydrates, 212mg cholesterol, 32g fat, 2g fiber, 48g protein, 16g saturated fat, 555mg sodium, 5g sugar

Recipe tested by Aaron Hutcherson; email questions to food@washpost.com

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With shallots, garlic, dried herbs, tomato paste, white wine and heavy cream, the sauce for the chicken is luscious and full of flavor. The chicken is then added back to finish cooking all the way through.

Loaded with vegetables, this American goulash packs in added nutrition



Ellie Krieger

NOURISH

Nutrition can seem overwhelmingly complicated at times, but one of the most impactful things you can do to improve your health and well-being is quite simple: Eat more vegetables.

Vegetables are packed with the nutrients our bodies rely on to fight disease and help us feel and look our best. The fiber in them supports gut health and makes us feel more full with fewer calories, and the color they add to the plate makes the eating experience all the more pleasurable.

There's no need to overhaul your life to get more vegetables; you can simply add them to the foods you already enjoy. It can be as easy as layering sandwiches with sliced cucumber and radishes along with the usual lettuce and tomato; folding diced tomatoes or leftover chopped roasted vegetables into your scrambled eggs; or topping

your spaghetti and meatballs (or penne with shrimp) with a mound of fresh arugula.

This recipe runs with that idea by packing a medley of colorful vegetables in the comfort-food-favorite American goulash. Like the homey classic, this recipe starts with a pound of ground beef (or turkey), which is browned with onion and garlic, then simmered in a tomatoey sauce with elbow macaroni. But here, mushrooms, zucchini and broccoli are added to the mix. Along with the extra vegetable goodness they bring to this affordable one-pot meal, these ingredients make the dish more healthfully balanced, more nutrient-dense and more fulfilling.

A single spoonful of this goulash will convince you that eating well doesn't have to be complicated, and it doesn't have to mean giving up your favorite foods.

Krieger is a registered dietitian nutritionist, cookbook author, and cooking show and podcast host. Learn more at elliekrieger.com.



PHOTOS BY TOM MCCORKLE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST; FOOD STYLING BY GINA NISTICO FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Vegetable-Loaded American Goulash

4 to 6 servings (makes 9 cups)

This vegetable-loaded American goulash is meaty, saucy and packed with macaroni, as you'd expect from the comfort food classic. The added benefit of colorful vegetables — zucchini, mushrooms, tomatoes and broccoli — makes it a complete, more-healthy meal than its traditional cousin.

Storage: Refrigerate for up to 2 days. As the noodles sit, they'll continue to absorb water and may turn mushy.

Active time: 40 mins; **Total time:** 1 hour

From cookbook author and registered dietitian nutritionist Ellie Krieger.

Ingredients

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 pound ground beef, preferably 93 percent lean (see Substitutions)
- 1 medium yellow onion (8 ounces), diced
- 4 ounces white button mushrooms (about 8 small), trimmed and sliced
- 3 garlic cloves, minced or finely grated
- 1 small zucchini (6 to 8 ounces), trimmed and diced
- 2 cups (5 ounces) bite-size broccoli florets (fresh or frozen; if frozen, no need to defrost)
- 1 teaspoon dried basil
- 1 teaspoon dried oregano
- ½ teaspoon fine salt, plus more to taste
- ½ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- ¼ teaspoon crushed red pepper flakes, plus more to taste (optional)
- 3 cups low-sodium or no-salt-added beef broth (see

Substitutions

- One (15-ounce) can no-salt-added tomato sauce
- One (14.5-ounce) can no-salt-added diced tomatoes, with their juices
- 2 cups (8 ounces) dried elbow macaroni, preferably whole-grain

Steps

- In a medium (4-quart) pot over medium-high heat, heat the oil until shimmering. Add the ground beef and onion, and cook, stirring occasionally and breaking up the meat into small pieces with a wooden spoon, until the meat is no longer pink and the onion softens, about 5 minutes.
- Add the mushrooms and cook, stirring occasionally, until they have released their water and it evaporates, about 3 minutes. Add the garlic and cook, stirring, until aromatic, about 1 minute more.

- Add the zucchini, broccoli, basil, oregano, salt, black pepper and crushed red pepper flakes, if using, and cook, stirring occasionally, until the vegetables have softened slightly, about 3 minutes.
- Add the broth, tomato sauce and diced tomatoes, with their juices, increase the heat to high and bring to a boil. Stir in the macaroni, return to a boil, then reduce the heat to medium. Cook, uncovered and stirring occasionally, until the macaroni is just tender, about 8 minutes. Taste, and season with additional salt and crushed red pepper flakes, if desired. Serve family-style or divide among individual shallow bowls.

Substitutions

- Ground beef >> 93 percent lean ground turkey or chicken.
- Beef broth >> chicken broth.
- Vegetarian? >> Use a plant-based ground meat substitute or



Mushrooms, zucchini and broccoli make this one-pot meal more healthfully balanced and nutrient-dense.

crumbled tempeh, and vegetable broth.

- Gluten-free? >> Use gluten-free pasta.
- Dried herbs >> 1 tablespoon each of finely chopped fresh ba-

sil and oregano.

Nutrition | Per serving (1½ cups), based on 6: 342 calories, 39g carbohydrates, 48mg cholesterol, 9g fat, 5g fiber, 26g protein, 3g saturated fat, 281mg sodium, 8g sugar

Recipe tested by Lisa Lednicer; email questions to food@washpost.com

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Making muffins with tall tops, using unsweetened chocolate and more

Q&A

AARON HUTCHERSON
AND BECKY
KRISTAL

Each Wednesday at noon, Post food writer Aaron Hutcherson and recipes editor Becky Krystal answer questions and provide practical cooking advice in a chat with readers at washingtonpost.com/community. Here are edited excerpts. Recipes whose names are capitalized can be found at our Recipes landing page at washingtonpost.com/recipes.

Q: I love dark chocolate — into the range of 80 percent cacao and above — but was given a bar of 100 percent Ecuadorian chocolate. It's too bitter even for me, so I'm wondering how I can use it. Hot chocolate comes to mind, but I don't really drink it. Most truffle recipes seem to call for semisweet chocolate. What would you make?

A: You can make a lot with unsweetened chocolate! Some ideas from our archives: Brownie Scones, Midnight Cookies, Dark Chocolate Syrup, Favorite Bittersweet Chocolate Bars, and Bittersweet Chocolate Souffle. — *Becky Krystal*

Q: I've made a bit of an impulse purchase. I am now the proud owner of a bag of White Lily flour, and I was wondering whether you might be familiar with any recipes that would use it.

A: First is to determine whether it's all-purpose or self-rising, which has leavener already mixed in. If it's all-purpose, you can use it in place of other all-purpose flours. However, it generally has a lower protein content than other brands, which means more tender baked goods/less gluten development. Regardless of whether it's all-purpose or self-rising, many Southern cooks love it for biscuits. — *Aaron Hutcherson*

Q: I make a simple, classic banana bread that my family loves. They love it more with chocolate chips added. Is there anything I can do to keep the chips from sinking to the bottom of the loaf and then a bunch of them seeping out?

A: I know people talk about



TOM MCCORKLE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST; FOOD STYLING BY GINA NISTICO FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

One way to use up unsweetened chocolate is to make these Midnight Cookies, available at washingtonpost.com/recipes.

tossing these kinds of mix-ins with flour to keep them from sinking, but I don't totally buy it. Here's one idea: Don't mix the chips into the batter. Instead, try layering batter and chips as you put the batter into the pan. Another option: Consider using mini chips, if you're using regular at the moment. One more thought would be to just slightly increase the flour in the batter to thicken it up, if it's thin enough to allow the chips to sink. (Not much; I'm talking maybe 2 or 3 tablespoons to start.) — *B.K.*

Q: In Ellie Krieger's Skillet Chicken With Lemon, Fennel and Olives, her substitution list mentioned "your favorite olives (except for canned)." Does that mean that when a recipe calls for olives, am I not to use olives from a can or jar?

A: Jarred olives tend to be better in terms of quality and taste compared with canned olives, so it's preferable to use olives from a jar. — *A.H.*

Q: How do I make muffins with tall, crisp tops? No matter what type I make, they never end up with big, tall tops like the muffins sold at bakeries.

A: Try preheating your oven to a slightly higher temperature than the recipe calls for, 25 degrees or so. Then immediately drop the muffins into the oven. And what type of muffin tin are you using? This might run counter to what some people say, but I've tended to get higher rises in my metal muffin tin than with silicone, for example. — *B.K.*

Q: I've started making my own flour tortillas. The recipe says to put the lard in the processor with the flour and pulse. My question is: What's the better way to put in the lard? One big lump straight out of the measuring cup, or in smaller chunks?

A: Yes, I'd go with smaller chunks. I've never used lard like this, but that's what I do when adding butter for pie crusts and such in the food processor. — *B.K.*



PHOTOS BY REY LOPEZ FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

“There’s so much more to Asian flavors, and a lot of our food is based on building those flavors with spices, with herbs,” says Susan Bae. “I want people to be able to have that, but not just affiliate it with savory.”

Susan Bae, D.C.’s most daring pastry chef, hits her stride

SUSAN BAE FROM E1

Bae, 34, a 2024 James Beard nominee and 2025 semifinalist (nominees will be announced in April) for outstanding pastry chef or baker, is matter-of-fact and relaxed about her rather complicated creations. Her flavor checklist? Acidity, florals, brightness and herbs. As for texture, Bae wants crunch, creaminess and chew. “I’m really big on texture. It has to hit all of the marks for me.”

Take the Curry, the most popular on the menu. (Each dessert is titled with one word.) The couldn’t-be-airier sponge cake is made with green curry (florals, check). The caramel is made with fish sauce (acidity). Plus, there’s finger lime (brightness) and fresh dill (herbs), one of Bae’s favorite flavors.

Sure, the Curry is delicious. But more notably, it’s bewildering. How do these flavors work so well together, in a *dessert*? It looks unassuming on the plate: a jagged-edged green sponge cake with an avocado sorbet on top and a white sourpoup mousse on top of that. It’s verdant in color, but understated. You don’t expect the grassy-sweet punch upon first bite. The curry flavor is there, but more in the background, as a hype man (hype woman? hype ... paste?) supporting the sweetness of the cake and sorbet. As with all of Bae’s desserts, it takes a few bites to understand what exactly is happening. And then you just can’t help but smile.

Dill also appears in the Durian: a mousse dessert made with white chocolate streusel and a passionfruit granita. It’s Tien’s current favorite. “It’s pretty gutsy to put durian on our dessert menu as your last bite,” he said.

But using an extremely pungent fruit — no, the dessert does not smell or taste funky; it’s tropical and refreshing — doesn’t feel out of the ordinary for Bae.

“There’s so much more to Asian flavors, and a lot of our food is based on building those flavors with spices, with herbs,” she said. “I want people to be able to have that, but not just affiliate it with savory. It can also work with a dessert.”

Before Moon Rabbit, Bae worked as a pastry chef at several restaurants that spanned multiple cuisines: Southeast Asian, French and Italian. She was at the perennially popular Italian American chainlet Jon & Vinny’s in Los Angeles as well as the Michelin-starred Kali. Then she worked with the Fairmont hotel group in Austin and D.C.

But it wasn’t until Moon Rabbit opened its new location in 2024 that she could really show-



At middle, Bae prepares the Durian, seen above left, which features durian mousse, passionfruit granita, white chocolate streusel and dill. Above right is the Seaweed, Bae’s favorite of the current menu, which has a pandan panna cotta, coconut cream, a frozen coconut granita disk, chocolate streusel and seaweed. It was inspired by a photo in which Bae’s mother was holding her as a child on a beach.

case her range. (The restaurant’s first location, in a hotel at the Wharf, closed in 2023.)

“Those bounds got removed when they moved to their own space,” said chef Tim Ma of Any Day Now in Navy Yard, where Bae also designs and bakes the cakes. “I’ve seen her creativity grow a lot.”

“We get to play around with unique flavors and things that are prevalent in our heritage and culture,” said Bae, who is second-generation Korean American.

When Tien opened Moon Rabbit 1.0 in 2020, he hired Bae

without ever tasting her food. They had followed each other on Instagram for years, and he saw an image she posted: a coconut cream puff with toasted coconut shavings and a pandan mousse with mango. “It transported me back to my childhood. It was so clean, super neat and tight. I was like, ‘This is the pastry chef,’” said Tien, 37.

Ma echoes the sentiment. He collaborates with Bae for various events through Chefs Stopping AAPI Hate as well as private dinners. For one dinner, Bae created an upscale version of

almond Jell-O, a popular Chinese dessert. “It was incredible to see how she made it her style. She went down the street and foraged flowers,” Ma said. “I wish I took a picture of it. It was an incredibly composed version but tasted just like your memory of almond Jell-O.”

Bae’s source for creativity has evolved after some heavy personal losses. Her father died in 2015, her mother in 2020, and her sister when Bae was working at Moon Rabbit’s first incarnation. She channels family memories to push her flavor profiles and the

idea of what dessert can be.

Enter: Seaweed, Bae’s favorite of the current menu. It was inspired by a photo of Bae and her mother, when Bae was about 3 years old. Her mom is holding her on a beach, with seaweed all over the sand. The dessert has a base of pandan panna cotta, with seaweed confit and coconut cream. It’s topped with a frozen coconut granita disk and surrounded by chocolate streusel and sea beans. Like the green curry in the Curry, the multiple forms of seaweed here are amplifiers, not centers of attention.

There’s a hint of brininess from the seaweed and sea beans, and earthiness from the chocolate. This is Bae’s ethos: She’s rooted in pastry but not confined by it.

Bae plates her desserts with ease, speed and finesse. Yes, there are tweezers involved, as well as many individual ingredients that have very specific placements. But she chats casually as she pulls the Seaweed’s coconut disk from its tray, or describes the Tofu’s miso an-glaise as if charring miso in the salamander and transforming it into a custard sauce is no big deal. She’s meticulous with her plating but breezy about her elaborate process.

The Tofu is inspired by doen-jang jjigae, a Korean fermented soybean paste stew made with vegetables, chile peppers and tofu. Bae disliked the dish growing up but loves it as an adult. Her dessert version has many savory elements reminiscent of the stew: roasted soy powder, koginut squash, a vibrant Jimmy Nardello pepper jam (free advice to Bae and Moon Rabbit: jar and sell this), and a toasted rice tuile. It doesn’t taste anything like her mom’s version — the main actor is a silky, quietly decadent tofu cheesecake — but the inspiration is clear.

“I wanted to create a dish based off of the feelings that I had, which was comfort and the memories of my family sitting around the table, having a bowl of doenjang jjigae yet again for the third time in a week,” she said. “It’s really fun, because I get to create it with my family here at Moon Rabbit.”

Along with Tien, Bae works closely with Judy Beltrano, a fellow partner and co-chef whom she relies on for her honed-in palate, and chef de cuisine Minsu Son, who experiments a lot with fermentation. She has Son to thank for the fermented cabbage that appears in the Tofu.

“Because I’ve lost my family, Moon Rabbit has sort of become my family. We’re all second-generation Asian Americans, and we all have our own story,” Bae said. “I am learning a lot of my heritage and culture from my peers and from my cooks. ... When I was younger, I never had the chance to experience or fully embrace my culture and heritage. After I lost that opportunity with my parents, I now have the opportunity here.”

Tien, for one, is grateful for Bae as well. “I can make a tasty dessert. ... But would I do it as well as Susan and be able to tell a story in all the components as well as Susan? Absolutely not,” he said.

“She deserves all the attention in the world.”

Carrot cake overnight oats make your first meal of the day taste like a treat

BY OLGA MASSOV

For everything we hear about breakfast being the most important meal of the day, it's the one meal I always struggle with. I don't get hungry until later in the morning, and I prefer my first hours awake to start with coffee.

In a perfect world, I'd begin each day with a just-baked, perfectly laminated pain au chocolat. Alas, there are no good-quality pastry shops within walking distance of where I live, and it's not the healthiest option for everyday consumption.

By the time I get hungry, mid-to late morning, I'm ravenous and need something filling and nutrient-dense at the ready. Overnight oats, which are easy to throw together the night before — or to make as a batch for the week ahead — fit the bill.

Lately, I've been channeling one of my husband's favorite desserts, carrot cake. I first combine some milk and Greek yogurt with a little maple syrup, a blend of warming spices typically used in the cake — cinnamon, ginger, allspice and nutmeg — and a pinch of salt to create a slurry. (If you don't have all the spices on hand, or you find this many spices to be too fussy, use one or two of them and call it a day.)

Then I add the solid ingredients — oats, golden raisins or dried tart cherries, hulled hemp hearts, chia seeds and carrot — and stir everything together to combine. You may raise your eyebrow at the cherries, hemp hearts and chia seeds, and you're right, they do not belong in the cake; however, I want my breakfast to keep me full through lunchtime and provide a boost of nutrition. Dried tart cherries, while not traditional, add a welcome sour note. Hulled hemp hearts and chia seeds are nutritional powerhouses, rich in protein and fiber, as well as other nutrients.

Last, and perhaps most important, I like to add a crunchy element to my overnight oats right before serving. To honor traditional carrot cake, I top mine with some toasted chopped pecans, but I don't stop there. These days, I'm living the mantra of “more is more,” so I also throw in some sunflower and pumpkin seeds, as well as a few flakes of toasted coconut. (The addition of crunchy bits is also terrific on your morning yogurt.)

Although I may never become an early-morning breakfast person, having tasty — and healthful — options waiting for me sets me up for better mornings and, subsequently, better days. It feels like I'm having my cake and eating it, too — even if there's no actual cake involved.



SCOTT SUCHMAN FOR THE WASHINGTON POST; FOOD STYLING BY LISA CHERKASKY FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Carrot Cake Overnight Oats

4 servings (makes 3 cups)

These gently sweetened overnight oats channel the flavors of carrot cake without any refined sugar. Warming spices mingle with shredded carrot and golden raisins or dried tart cherries, and hemp hearts and chia seeds deliver additional protein and body. As overnight oats are uniformly mushy, topping with seeds and nuts at the end ensures an appealing texture with every spoonful.

Make ahead: The overnight oats need to be prepared and refrigerated at least 6 hours in advance.

Storage: Refrigerate for up to 4 days.

Where to buy: Unsweetened tart dried cherries, hulled hemp hearts, chia seeds, and raw pumpkin and sunflower seeds can be found at natural food stores or online.

Total time: 10 mins, plus at least 6 hours for chilling

From assistant recipes editor Olga Massov.

Ingredients

- 1¼ cups (300 milliliters) milk (any fat level or nondairy), plus more as needed
- ¾ cup (170 grams) plain Greek yogurt (any fat level or nondairy)
- 1½ tablespoons maple syrup, plus more as needed
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- ½ teaspoon ground allspice, plus more as needed
- ½ teaspoon ground cinnamon, plus more as needed
- ½ teaspoon ground ginger, plus more as needed
- ¼ teaspoon fine salt, plus more as needed
- Pinch freshly grated nutmeg
- ¾ cup (65 grams) old-fashioned rolled oats (see Notes)
- ¼ cup (40 grams) golden raisins or dried tart cherries, preferably unsweetened
- 2 tablespoons (30 grams) hulled hemp hearts
- 2 tablespoons (20 grams) chia seeds
- 1 medium carrot (2 to 3 ounces/ 57 to 85 grams), scrubbed and coarsely grated
- ½ cup (40 grams) toasted chopped pecans
- ¼ cup (20 grams) toasted coconut chips
- 2 tablespoons raw pumpkin seeds (pepitas)
- 2 tablespoons raw sunflower seeds

Steps

- In a medium bowl, whisk together the milk, yogurt, maple syrup, vanilla, allspice, cinnamon, ginger, salt and nutmeg until well combined.
- Stir in the oats, raisins or dried

cherries, hemp hearts, chia seeds and carrot until well combined. Taste the liquid, and add more maple syrup, salt and spices, if desired. You should have about 3 cups. Divide among four 1-cup/240-milliliter jars or one 4-cup/1-liter jar, cover, and refrigerate for at least 6 hours and up to 4 days.

- When ready to serve, check on the consistency and add more milk, 1 tablespoon at a time, if the oatmeal is too thick for your liking. If you had refrigerated the oatmeal in a large jar, divide among individual bowls, about ¾ cup per serving. Top each portion with a generous 1 tablespoon of the pecans, 1 tablespoon of the coconut chips, and ½ tablespoon each of the pumpkin seeds and sunflower seeds, and serve.

Substitutions

- Cinnamon >> cardamom.
- Instead of all of the listed spices >> pick your favorite one or two.

- Dried fruit >> fresh berries, such as blueberries or raspberries. (Don't use strawberries, as they are too watery.)
- Vegan? >> Use nondairy milk and yogurt.
- Pecans >> walnuts or your favorite nut.
- Nut-free? >> Use more of the seeds.
- Maple syrup >> honey or agave.
- Don't have all the nuts and seeds listed? >> Use whichever ones you have.

Notes

• To ensure this dish is gluten-free, look for the gluten-free label on the oats packaging.

Nutrition | Per serving (¾ cup, using reduced-fat milk and nonfat yogurt): 406 calories, 40g carbohydrates, 6mg cholesterol, 21g fat, 8g fiber, 16g protein, 6g saturated fat, 211mg sodium, 18g sugar

Recipe tested by Olga Massov; email questions to food@washpost.com


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