The Washington Times

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CAMPAIGN 2024

Democrats more optimistic about Biden's campaign

Gaining ground in swing states

By Seth McLaughlin
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Things are starting to look up — or at least a little less gloomy — for President Biden's reelection hopes.

Despite a lagging approval rating, endless questions about his age and raging concerns about the U.S.-Mexico border, Mr. Biden has stayed competitive in polling and raked in tons of money that is helping him expand his footprint in battleground states and blanket the airwaves with campaign ads.

"There is reason to be optimistic," said Christopher P. Borick, director of the Muhlenberg College Institute of Public Opinion in Pennsylvania, where Mr. Biden is running television ads downplaying his age and touting his support of abortion rights.

Mr. Borick said Mr. Biden appeared to get a "modest" bounce out of the State of the Union address, which tamped down age concerns, and there are signs that public confidence in the economy is trending in a positive direction.

"There is little wind at his back," he said. "Maybe a pleasant spring breeze."

Challenging the notion, Trump campaign spokesperson Steven Cheung said Democrats should take a look at the

» see BIDEN | A5

Nebraska's 2nd District in spotlight for split vote

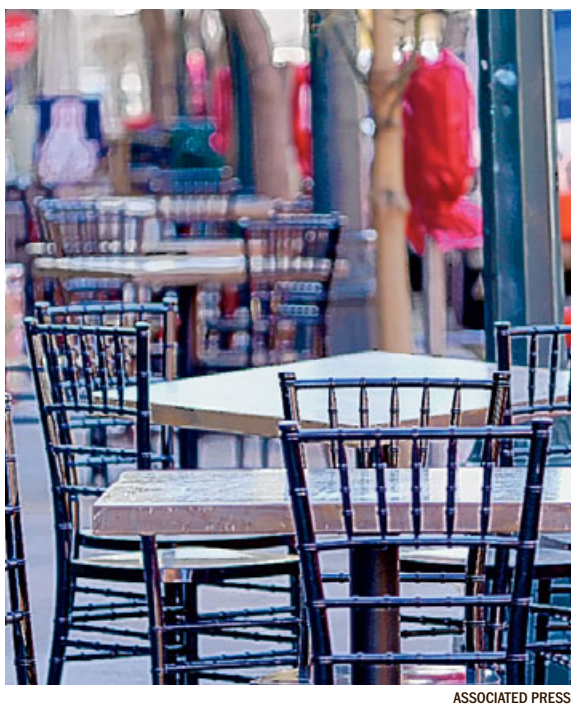
By Susan Ferrechio
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Republicans are scrambling to change Nebraska's electoral voting system to prevent a scenario in which President Biden beats former President Donald Trump in November by way of the state's Democrat-leaning Omaha district.

The conservative activist group Turning Point USA was rallying Tuesday in Omaha to pressure Gov. Jim Pillen, a Republican, to call a special legislative session to try to change the state's quirky electoral voting system.

At the same time, Never Trump Republicans began running ads in the 2nd District to urge residents to call their state lawmakers and tell them not to make any changes, The Hill reported.

» see NEBRASKA | A6



ASSOCIATED PRESS

COUNTING THE LOSS: The government opened its wallet and shoveled out financial relief during the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic so businesses could stay open. But fraud proved to be a major issue.

ACCOUNTABILITY

Recouped COVID cash mere pennies on dollar

$1.4 billion less than 1% of losses

By Stephen Dinan
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

The Justice Department's pandemic fraud task force has recovered just $1.4 billion in money seized or forfeited from people who stole the government's coronavirus cash, just a fraction of 1% of the total lost to theft.

The department announced the data Tuesday, marking nearly three years since Attorney General Merrick Garland created the COVID-19 Fraud Enforcement Task Force and roughly four years since Uncle Sam opened its wallet and shoveled cash out the door to help the country cope with shuttered businesses and mass layoffs.

Authorities say they've brought federal criminal charges against more than 3,500 people, accounting for about $2 billion in total losses. They have reached more than 400 civil settlements and judgments and recovered $1.4 billion.

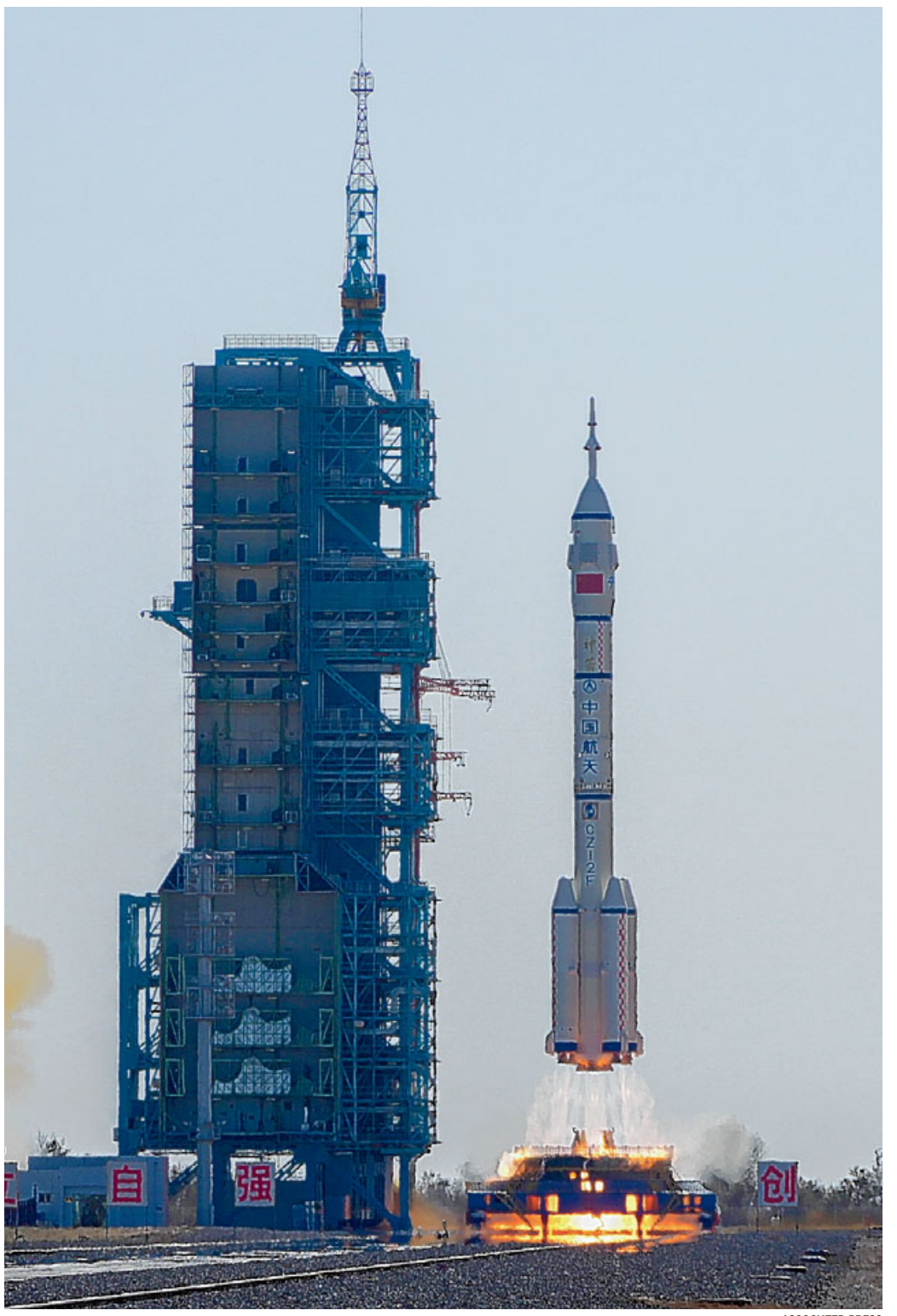
Other agencies, such as the Secret Service, have also recovered several billion dollars, but that's still a small fraction of what was stolen.

"During the pandemic around $1 trillion was lost to criminal groups. With that, the vast majority of the money went overseas supporting international

» see PANDEMIC | A6

SPACE

U.S. on track to lose space race to China



ASSOCIATED PRESS

LAUNCHPAD: China's space capabilities are expanding rapidly, a report warned. Pentagon experts said that China "is on track to surpass the U.S." as the top space power by 2045.

Beijing expands capabilities for off-planet battle and exploration

By Bill Gertz
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

The U.S. risks losing a new space race with China unless American and allied space industries are strengthened and bureaucratic logjams reduced, according to a study by Pentagon space experts made public Monday.

China is rapidly expanding its capabilities for both exploration and warfighting in space in what the White House has called the current "decisive decade" in competing with Beijing, the report by experts from the Space Force, Air Force Research Laboratory, and Defense Innovation Unit states.

Beijing "remains our most consequential strategic competitor for the coming decades and the only country with both the intent to reshape the international order, and, increasingly, the economic, diplomatic, military and technological power to do so," the report by officials from the three agencies that outlined the result of an annual conference.

The conference held in December sought to find ways to prevent China from dominating space, something that could happen if the U.S. loses its current lead in government and civilian space programs.

But the report warned that "China appears to be on track to surpass the U.S. as the dominant space power by 2045, or potentially earlier, unless proactive measures are taken now to sustain our nation's leadership."

As the global space race heats up again, the world by 2060 could see thriving off-Earth human communities, a vastly expanded space economy, and a balance of power favoring U.S.

» see SPACE | A8

BUSINESS

District's businesses dour about future

Expect to be worse off in 6 months

By Sean Salai
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

As the seat of the federal government, Washington has long been regarded as being shielded from most economic turbulence. But businesses inside the District expect to be worse off financially in six months than companies in the D.C. region and the nation, according to a new survey.

The nonpartisan D.C. Policy Center sent surveys to 91 city businesses in January. Among them, 73% predicted the D.C. economy would worsen, 13% said it would hardly change and 14% said it would be "somewhat" stronger.

Meanwhile, 61% expected the D.C. region's economy to deteriorate, 20% anticipated no change and 20% predicted it would be "somewhat" stronger.

In addition, 29% expected the national economy to be "somewhat" or "much" weaker, 33% predicted "minimal or no change" and 37% said it would be "somewhat" or "much" stronger.

"Businesses no longer consider D.C. a safe haven protected from inflation by the federal government," Yesim Sayin, executive director of the D.C. Policy Center, told The Washington Times. "This is a big change, because in the past the District has always outperformed the nation's

» see BUSINESS | A6

POLITICS
Impeachment articles against Mayorkas wait until next week. A4

NATION
Parents of Michigan school shooter receive 10 years in prison. A7

WORLD
China's Xi welcomes top Russian in show of mutual support. A10

REGION
Third channel at port to open in Baltimore after bridge collapse. A11

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ABOUT THOSE LOANS

On Monday, President Biden revealed his plans to forgive student loans, essentially offering at least $5,000 in debt relief to a potential 23 million borrowers — and leaving taxpayers to foot the hefty bill.

House Budget Committee Chairman Jodey Arrington, Texas Republican, has a thing or two to say about the situation.

"President Biden is pushing unconstitutional student loan policies in his quest to buy votes. In reality, his plan will shift the responsibility of paying for loans owed by high-income earners who freely incurred them onto the backs of all taxpayers, many of whom do not even have a college degree," he said in a written statement shared with Inside the Beltway.

"His administration is dead set on circumventing the Supreme Court, defying Congress, and saddling our country with more debt. Meanwhile, President Biden has fumbled this year's Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) program at every turn, delayed student aid packages, sending incorrect aid amounts, and making college less accessible for millions of low-income students," Mr. Arrington said.

"As too many families struggle to make ends meet, and as our nation faces an unprecedented debt crisis, one thing is clear: the American people cannot afford four more years of this administration," he said.

And now for a few numbers, supplied by the House Budget Committee in a written summary.

"In just three years, the Biden administration has attempted to spend an unprecedented $1 trillion on loan 'forgiveness' in a clear circumvention of Congress. The Congressional Budget Office estimated that President Biden's unconstitutional student loan bailout would have cost taxpayers more than $330 billion," the summary said.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rep. Jodey Arrington ripped President Biden's "unconstitutional" attempt to circumvent the Supreme Court on student debt cancellation.

"The President's six unwarranted extensions of the pandemic student loan repayment pause have increased the deficit by $165 billion. One of the administration's recent backdoor student loan cancellations, the so-called 'SAVE Plan' could cost taxpayers as much as $558 billion over the next decade," the summary said.

The cost of college tuition is also a factor here.

"Since 2000, college tuition and fees have increased by a whopping 186%, or twice the increase in inflation," the summary also said.

IVY-COVERED HALLS

College graduation ceremonies appear to be evolving on some campuses, perhaps beyond the simple events of yore that typically ended with students tossing their hats in the air.

"Harvard University's Office for Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging will once again host 'affinity celebrations' at its 2024 commencement," said National Review, which had access to documents addressing the activities.

"Harvard plans to hold a 'Disability Celebration,' a 'Global Indigenous Celebration,' an 'Asian American, Pacific Islander, 'Desi-American (APIDA) Celebration,' a 'First Generation-Low Income Celebration,' a 'Jewish Celebration,' a 'Latinx Celebration,' a 'Lavender Celebration' — which refers to LGBT students — a 'Black Celebration,' a 'Veterans Celebration,' and an 'Arab Celebration.' The university will also hold a central commencement ceremony for students of all backgrounds," analyst Zach Kessel wrote.

"A note on the sign-up form shared with National Review by a current student informs registrants that the Celebration Recognizing Arab Graduates, the Celebration Recognizing Jewish Graduates, and the Celebration Recognizing Veteran Graduates are being planned in collaboration with student groups and campus partners," he said.

"The only publicly available mention of affinity celebrations on any Harvard website is published on the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences' page. The note does not mention the specific events or groups recognized, simply describing them as 'student-led, staff-supported events that recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of graduates from marginalized and underrepresented communities,'" Mr. Kessel said.

MEANWHILE ON THE RADIO

Salem Media Group Inc. is set to debut new programming on April 13. That would be "This Week on the Hill," described as "a compelling and informative radio/TV program."

The new one-hour show will be hosted by Tony Perkins, president of the Family Research Council, and will feature House Speaker Mike Johnson on its first episode and other members of Congress later. The show aims to offer candid conversations on issues facing Congress and the nation, plus global concerns.

"I look forward to being a guest on this show. This opportunity to engage in informative discussions will provide listeners with a better understanding of politics, policy, and culture in these historic times," Mr. Johnson said in a written statement.

"This Week on the Hill" will air on the Salem Radio Network for weekend play, as well as the Salem News Channel, Salem Podcast Network, and will be featured at Townhall.com. The show will be fed down the SRN Satellite channel on Saturdays at 7 a.m. Eastern time, for stations to carry over the weekend.

"Salem is honored to kick off this important program with Speaker Johnson as guest. Speaker Johnson has worked tirelessly for conservative values throughout his career, including since he took over the Speaker's position," said Salem Senior Vice President Phil Boyce, also in a written statement.

Besides his Family Research Council post, Mr. Perkins served as the chairman of the U.S. Commission for International Religious Freedom during the Trump administration.

Find information about the incoming show at SalemMedia.com; check under the Conservative Media heading.

POLL DU JOUR

• 67% of U.S. adults say their income is falling behind the cost of living.

• 67% rate their ability to save for the future as "not so good" or "poor."

• 62% say they have an emergency fund to cover an expense of $1,000, such as car repairs.

• 60% would rate the economic health of their local community as "not so good" or "poor."

• 50% say the condition of their personal finances are "excellent" or "good."

• 34% say their credit card debt has increased in the past three months.

SOURCE: A PRIMERICA FINANCIAL SECURITY MONITOR POLL OF 1,312 U.S. ADULTS WITH INCOMES BETWEEN $30,000 AND $130,000, CONDUCTED MARCH 6-11 AND RELEASED TUESDAY.

• Follow Jennifer Harper on X @HarperBulletin, on Facebook @HarperUniverse. Thank you for reading Inside the Beltway.

CAMPAIGN 2024

Kennedy says he'd appoint special counsel to look into sentences of Jan. 6 prisoners

By Mallory Wilson
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Independent presidential candidate Robert F. Kennedy Jr. said he would appoint a special counsel to look into whether the sentences for those involved in the Jan. 6, 2021, riot at the Capitol are correct.

He said during an interview Monday on NewsNation that his purpose "is not to exonerate those people, but rather just to restore peace."

"I think, you know, we're living in a time when Americans don't trust their government anymore. And that is really what the problem is. There is no trust in government, and we need to restore that trust," he said.

His statement comes after his campaign caught flak for sending out an email last week that described those involved in Jan. 6 as "activists" who were "stripped of their constitutional liberties."

Campaign spokeswoman Stefanie Spear later walked back the email.

"That statement was an error that does not reflect Mr. Kennedy's views," she said. "It was inserted by a new marketing contractor and slipped through the normal approval process."

Mr. Kennedy said on the news show, "It started with an email that went out about Jan. 6 from my campaign that did not reflect my views about Jan. 6, and it was followed very quickly by a press release that had a factual error in it. All I can say is: This is my responsibility. It's my campaign. We have a lot of hardworking people on the campaign, but we're all drinking from fire hoses."

He said he believes Jan. 6 was a "protest that turned into a riot," but that labeling the event as an insurrection would depend on a person's definition of the word.

"I think there were people who wanted insurrection," he said. "But I don't know what your definition of an insurrection is. If your definition is armed men who are ... intending to take over the United States government, it wasn't that. I think there were people there who wanted to obstruct the peaceful transfer of power from one administration to the other."

He added, "I would say it was a very traumatic day in our nation's history and people committed criminal acts. Those people deserve to be in jail."



FLORIDA

DeSantis signs retail-theft crackdown bill

Tougher penalties against package-stealing porch pirates and retail theft rings were signed into law Tuesday by Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis.

The Republican governor signed the bill that makes it a felony to swipe a package delivered at a home's front door and to recruit people for a shoplifting job over social media.

The law, which takes effect in October, also makes it a felony to steal from a store while armed with a gun or if the suspect has two or more convictions for retail theft. Shoplifting with five or more people is a felony now as well.

"Florida is taking another step to distinguish ourselves from lawless jurisdictions and keep our residents and businesses safe," Mr. DeSantis said at a signing event at a Walgreens in Stuart.

The laws addressing social media usage to coordinate thefts is a call back to the fast-moving flash-mob robberies that hit high-end stores.

— Matt Delaney

U.S. POSTAL SERVICE

Service asks for another rate increase

First-class letters will cost a nickel more to mail starting July 14 if a proposed U.S. Postal Service first-class rate hike is approved by the independent Postal Regulatory Commission.

The cost of a one-ounce stamped letter will go from 68 cents to 73 cents. It would be the sixth price hike in two years and follows statements by Postmaster General Louis DeJoy that the USPS has to catch up on years of underpricing.

Regular rate increases are part of Mr. DeJoy's "Delivering for America" 10-year plan for financial stability, the agency said.

In a news release, the quasi-governmental corporation said that prices would rise approximately 7.8% for mailing services, including domestic and international postcards and letters.

— Mark A. Kellner

REPUBLICANS

Trump reiterates abortion a state issue

Former President Donald Trump defended his stance that abortion rights should be decided by the states in the face of criticism from conservatives such as Sen. Lindsey Graham and Mr. Trump's own vice president, Mike Pence.

Those critics are "doing a great disservice to the Republican Party, and to our Country," Mr. Trump said in one of many Truth Social posts defending his opinion.

"Terminating Roe v. Wade was, according to all Legal Scholars, a Great Event, but sometimes with Great Events come difficulties. Many Good Republicans lost Elections because of this Issue, and people like Lindsey Graham, that are unrelenting, are handing Democrats their dream" of government control, he wrote.

— Mallory Wilson

EMBASSIES

Biden takes Mexico's side over Ecuador

The Biden administration on Tuesday scolded Ecuador for raiding the Mexican embassy Friday to arrest an official facing corruption charges.

National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan said the capture of former Ecuadorian Vice President Jorge Glas, who sought asylum at the embassy, violated the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, "including the use of force against embassy officials."

"We reviewed the security camera footage from the Mexican embassy and believe these actions were wrong. The Ecuadorian government disregarded its obligations — under international law as a host state — to respect the inviolability of diplomatic missions and jeopardized the foundation of basic diplomatic norms and relationships," Mr. Sullivan said.

— Tom Howell Jr.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rachel Goldberg-Polin (center) is mother of hostage Hersh Goldberg-Polin. She and the families of other hostages met with Vice President Kamala Harris on Tuesday. The families want results.

DIPLOMACY

Families of Hamas-held hostages demand action from vice president

The families of hostages believed to be held by Hamas demanded results from the Biden administration after a meeting Tuesday with Vice President Kamala Harris.

Rachel Goldberg-Polin, whose 23-year-old son Hersh is being held by Hamas in the Gaza strip, said they no longer want "progress" on bringing the hostages home, but results.

"We are thinking of all 133 souls who are being held," she told reporters at the White House after meeting with Ms. Harris. "We want results."

Others say they are still hopeful that Hamas will come to the negotiating table and strike a hostage deal.

"We are waiting now and the world waits for Hamas to get to 'yes.' It is in their court," said Jonathan Dekel-Chen, the father of U.S. hostage Sagui Dekel-Chen.

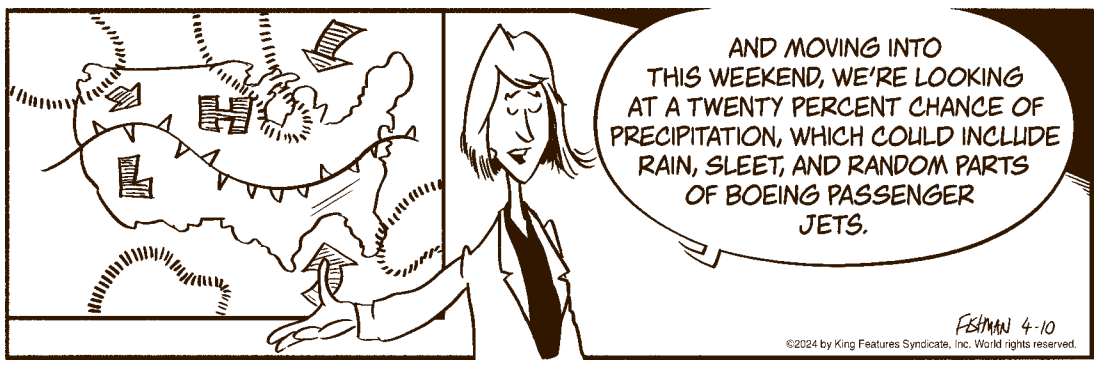
Ms. Harris offered reassurance that the Biden administration has "no higher priority" than reuniting hostages with their families, according to a White House readout.

The vice president also updated the families on the U.S. efforts to secure the release of all hostages and secure an immediate cease-fire in Gaza, the White House said.

Five Americans remain unaccounted for.

— Jeff Mordock

MALLARD FILLMORE / Bruce Tinsley



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45TH ANNIVERSARY

THE TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT

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SINCE THE TRA'S PASSAGE IN 1979...



USA

Signed into law the "**Taiwan Travel Act**," lifting all restrictions on high-level visits to and from Taiwan

Firmly **rejects China's baseless claim** of sovereignty over Taiwan, and **treats Taiwan as a sovereign country** and its governing authorities as a government

Supports a peaceful resolution of cross-Strait differences, consistent with the wishes and best interests of the people of Taiwan

Opposes unilateral changes to the status quo in the Taiwan Strait by force or coercion

Helps **maintain Taiwan's diplomatic allies**

Supports Taiwan's inclusion in international organizations such as the UN, the WHO, and the ICAO

Provides Taiwan with the arms necessary for its **self-defense**



PRC

Opposes all official visits between Taiwan and the United States

Falsely **claims Taiwan** as part of its territory, and despite **never ruling Taiwan**, treats Taiwan as a "renegade province" and its government as a "rebel group"

Threatens to annex Taiwan by force, violating the Taiwanese people's right of self-determination

Takes **aggressive actions to unilaterally change the status quo** in the Taiwan Strait

Poaches Taiwan's diplomatic allies through financial incentives

Blocks Taiwan from joining international organizations, even the WHO during a pandemic

Ordered China's military to be **ready to invade Taiwan by 2027**

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1. RENAME Taiwan's office in Washington from "TECRO" to "Taiwan Representative Office" by passing H.R.3171 in the House & S.1513 in the Senate

2. CONCLUDE a U.S.-Taiwan bilateral trade agreement

3. MOVE TOWARD U.S.-Taiwan diplomatic relations

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Politics

CONGRESS

House delays delivery of Mayorkas impeachment articles

Republicans build pressure on Democrats for full trial

By Ramsey Touchberry and Stephen Dinan
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

House Republicans on Tuesday canceled plans to send articles of impeachment against Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas to the Senate this week, in a move meant to build pressure on Democrats to hold a full trial.

House Speaker Mike Johnson had been ready to send the two articles on Wednesday but reversed himself, saying he was honoring a request from conservative senators who wanted more time.

"To ensure the Senate has adequate time to perform its constitutional duty, the House will transmit the articles of impeachment to the Senate next week," Johnson spokesperson Taylor Haulsee said. "There is no reason whatsoever for the Senate to abdicate its responsibility to hold an impeachment trial."

Republican senators said they would also use chamber rules to limit committee activity as a way of increasing pressure on Democrats.

The articles passed on a 214-213 vote in February, but Mr. Johnson declined to send them over, saying he wanted Congress to finish up the fiscal year 2024 spending process.

Lawmakers had expected the articles to be marched from the House to the Senate on Wednesday and for senators to be sworn as jurors the next day. That's when Democrats, who control the Senate, planned to swiftly shut down the proceedings.

"We're going to try and resolve this issue as quickly as possible," Majority Leader Charles E. Schumer, New York Democrat, told reporters. "Impeachment should never be used to settle policy disagreements."

He didn't say what method he would use but other senators said it could involve either tabling or moving to dismiss the case, which could be done through a majority vote.

Republicans decried the expected move that would be the first time in history the Senate avoided a trial after the House impeached an official.

"This is an absolute debacle at the southern border. It is a national security crisis," said Senate Minority Whip John Thune of South Dakota, the chamber's second-ranking Republican. "There needs to be accountability, and the Senate needs to conduct a trial where senators have an opportunity to examine the evidence and record and come to a conclusion."

Mr. Mayorkas is the first sitting Cabinet member to be impeached. The House approved two articles charging him with willfully subverting immigration enforcement laws and breaching the public trust by lying to Congress and the public about the border and his efforts to control it.

Mr. Mayorkas has challenged the articles, saying he's working to secure the border within the laws Congress has written.

Remaining firmly behind the secretary, the White House called impeachment a "complete waste of time" and urged lawmakers to work instead on border legislation.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

House Republicans canceled plans to send articles of impeachment against Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas on Tuesday.

Most constitutional experts who have weighed in on the case against Mr. Mayorkas say it falls short of the "high crimes and misdemeanors" required to impeach, convict and remove someone from office.

But House Republicans said Supreme Court justices have left the door open for impeachment as an answer to an official who is refusing to carry out enacted laws — which is what they say Mr. Mayorkas has done.

Senate Republicans said the House should be given the space to make their case, and Mr. Mayorkas the space to mount a defense.

"Secretary Mayorkas was not impeached because he is unpopular or just because he's incompetent. He was impeached for two serious offenses," said Sen. John Cornyn, Texas Republican.

Utah Sen. Mitt Romney is the lone Republican who has suggested he will side with Democrats to kill the impeachment articles.

"Mayorkas has done a terrible job, but he's following the direction of the president and has not met the constitutional test of a high criminal crime or misdemeanor," Mr. Romney said.

Other GOP senators have also questioned whether Mr. Mayorkas' conduct rises to an impeachable offense but want to hear the evidence presented in a trial.

Most swing-state Democrats up for reelection have indicated they will remain united and vote to crush the articles even in the face of potential political repercussions on the campaign trail, including Sens. Bob Casey of Pennsylvania and Sherrod Brown of Ohio.

A promising sign for Senate Democrats, their most moderate member and frequent dissenter — West Virginia Sen. Joe Manchin III, who is not seeking reelection — said the articles were "crazy and stupid" and will vote them down.

But Montana Sen. Jon Tester refused to commit despite his skepticism of the charges.

"I really do want to look at the impeachment documents," Mr. Tester said. "When this came up [in the House], we were in the middle of a border security bill that I think he should have passed."

HOUSE

Greene slams Johnson in GOP letter

Explains that House speaker has failed to make good on promises

By Alex Miller
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Georgia Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene blasted House Speaker Mike Johnson in a letter to fellow Republicans on Tuesday, accusing him of "complete and total surrender to Democrats" throughout his time with the gavel.

Ms. Greene explained in the letter why she opted to file a motion to vacate the chair, arguing that Mr. Johnson has failed to make good on the promises he made when he won the speaker race in October.

The firebrand Republican contended that Mr. Johnson, Louisiana Republican, has gone against each of his seven conservative tenets that he listed to the GOP after winning the gavel.

"This has been a complete and total surrender to, if not complete and total lockstep with, the Democrats' agenda that has angered our Republican base so much and given them very little reason to vote for a Republican House majority," Ms. Greene wrote. "As a matter of fact, if we win the House this fall, it will only be because President Trump is on the ballot, not because we have earned it."

Her attempt to oust Mr. Johnson has received little traction among her colleagues, who still remember the disarray from when former House Speaker Kevin McCarthy was booted by eight Republicans and all Democrats last year.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene said House Speaker Mike Johnson has gone against each of his seven conservative tenets.

Some Republicans fear that if an ouster this time is successful, it would hand Democrats the majority in the House on a silver platter. Among those raising the alarm are Reps. Matt Gaetz of Florida and Tim Burchett of Tennessee, who both voted to ax Mr. McCarthy.

Ms. Greene called foul on those fears, writing that Democrats would win the majority only if more Republicans retire early or conservatives vote in favor of House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries, New York Democrat, to win the speakership.

"And no, electing a new Republican speaker will not give the majority to the Democrats. That only happens if more Republicans retire early or Republicans actually vote for Hakeem Jeffries," she wrote. "It's not complicated, it's simple math."

More Republicans retiring early is a possibility, but a more immediate reality is that the House GOP will soon have only a one-vote majority when Rep. Mike Gallagher, Wisconsin Republican, leaves Congress this month.

Ms. Greene would have to force a vote on the motion to vacate the chair, a move she has not made. Though her letter was full of contempt for Mr. Johnson and his alleged abandonment of the conservative agenda, she made no promises on whether she would force the vote.

She did signal that how Mr. Johnson handles two key upcoming fights, one over sending more aid to Ukraine and the other over reauthorization of the federal government's spying power, could determine his fate.

"And if these actions by the leader of our conference continue, then we are not a Republican Party, we are a Uniparty that is hell-bent on remaining on the path of self-inflicted destruction," she wrote. "I will neither support nor take part in any of that, and neither will the people we represent."

HOUSE

Bill to overhaul FISA headed for vote in House this week

Battle centers on warrant requirement

By Kerry Picket
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Lawmakers on the House Intelligence and Judiciary committees faced off over an overhaul of the government's top spying tool on Tuesday ahead of the House's expected vote on it this week.

The fight centered on adding a warrant requirement to the bill that would reauthorize Section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, which allows the government to collect troves of data — emails, texts and phone calls — from foreigners living abroad and Americans' communications sometimes get scooped up too.

"The single most important reforms we can enact to combat these [FBI] abuses is a probable cause warrant requirement for U.S. person queries," said Rep. Jerrold Nadler, New York Democrat, who joined privacy hawks and GOP lawmakers outraged by FBI spying.

"I want to make a few things clear," Rep. Mike Turner, Ohio Republican, responded. "There are no warrantless searches of American citizens' data. That does not occur under FISA. It's not permissible under FISA. It's illegal."

The House is expected to vote this week to reauthorize the spying power for another five years, but the fight over warrant requirements will likely continue on the House floor. If not reauthorized, FISA powers will expire on April 19.

The reauthorization bill contains 56 changes to the law establishing new procedures to rein in the FBI, increase accountability at the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court and impose penalties for wrongdoing.

The bill received a boost of support when it became known that House Speaker Mike Johnson, Louisiana Republican, would vote against an amendment for a warrant requirement when agencies search for Americans' data in the FISA database.

Privacy hawks and national security hawks on both sides of the aisle have fought over adding a warrant requirement to further protect Americans' data that is inadvertently picked up when they communicate with a foreign target.

"If the warrant requirement was part of the legislation, it essentially eviscerates 702. So, if we want to get rid of 702, that's a way to do it," Rep. Darin LaHood, an Illinois Republican on the Intelligence Committee.



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"There are no warrantless searches of American citizens' data," Rep. Mike Turner said. "That does not occur under FISA. It's not permissible under FISA."

FISA has been controversial since its launch in 2007, and Congress mandated it to be renewed about every five years to force scrutiny of the program.

This time, the debate was shaped by the FBI's use of FISA to target the Trump campaign in 2016.

Former special counsel John Durham last year concluded in his report that the FBI should not have launched its "Crossfire Hurricane" investigation into the purported ties between the Trump campaign and Russia during the 2016 election.

Mr. LaHood said the changes in the bill will help hold the FBI accountable, including six new criminal statutes for abusing FISA.

"If this happened again with Crossfire Hurricane, I would predict there'd be four to five people within the FBI personnel that would be indicted by now," he said.

That wasn't enough for some GOP lawmakers

Mr. Jordan of Ohio was among the Republicans venting their displeasure with the bill.

"They spied on President Trump's campaign in 2016. They wrote the Hunter Biden laptop letter," Mr. Jordan said. "And now, they oppose the FBI having to get a warrant before they can search Americans' data."

NEW YORK

Potential jurors in Trump hush-money trial to be asked about media exposure, QAnon

By Tom Howell Jr.
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

The New York judge overseeing former President Donald Trump's hush-money criminal trial will ask prospective jurors about their media consumption and whether they follow QAnon or belong to the Proud Boys.

Potential jurors will also have to say if they worked for Mr. Trump's companies or have strong feelings about a former president being criminally charged, according to the 42-item questionnaire filed by Judge Juan Merchan before selection starts Monday.

Other topics, including party affiliation, will be off-limits.

"There are no questions asking prospective jurors whom they voted for or intend to vote for, or whom they have made political contributions to. Nor are jurors asked about their specific political party registration, though the answer to that question may easily be gleaned from the responses to the other questions," the judge wrote.

An indictment charges Mr. Trump with 34 counts of falsifying business records.

Prosecutors allege that Mr. Trump funneled hush-money payments to adult film actress Stormy Daniels and two other persons by documenting the payments as fees for his then-lawyer, Michael Cohen, on the cusp of the 2016 election.

Ms. Daniels, whose real name is Stephanie Clifford, says she had a sexual encounter with Mr. Trump nearly two decades ago. Mr. Trump denies her claim and has pleaded not guilty.

Many of the questions to potential jurors are routine, such as their occupation and whether they've been accused of a crime.

Others speak to the historical nature of the trial, as Mr. Trump becomes the first ex-president to face criminal prosecution.

The judge wants to know which news sites and social media platforms potential jurors read, listing The New York Times, Newsmax, TikTok and Truth Social, among others.

The questionnaire asks if they follow or belong to fringe political groups, including QAnon, the Proud Boys, the Oath Keepers, the Three Percenters, the Boogaloo Boys and antifa.

Selecting a jury to try one of the most famous persons in the world will be difficult.

"This court notes that the process of summoning thousands of additional jurors and implementing the necessary measures to ensure that their identities remain anonymous is involved," the judge wrote.

Judge Merchan said he is not inclined to question individually any juror who claims he or she cannot be impartial, which is customary in other trials.

"In my experience, the vast majority, if not all, of the jurors who have self-identified as unable to serve, are in fact excused at this stage for an assortment of reasons, not the least of which is bias in favor of or against one of the parties," the judge wrote.

HOUSE

Hearing in homeless shelter focuses on work over welfare

House GOP: Story shows importance of job requirement

By Mallory Wilson
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Twenty-seven years ago, Kristy Schofield was a homeless mother of two living in her car after escaping a domestic violence situation.

She eventually found her way to the Dream Center Peoria, a not-for-profit organization that aims to help families living in poverty in Illinois, where she now works as the director of homelessness and housing.

"I got what I needed to become self-sustaining," Ms. Schofield told a panel of lawmakers from the House Work and Welfare subcommittee of the Ways and Means Committee on Tuesday.

"I was so grateful that I've spent the last 25 years working with these programs as a director," she said. "The work that I do, the accomplishments, have given me back the self-esteem that I lost through the homelessness."

Republican lawmakers said her example illustrates the importance of work over welfare, and of their push to expand work requirements for welfare benefits, during the first congressional hearing ever held at a homeless shelter.

Ms. Schofield said that the common thread in many of the welfare cases she sees is the lack of self-esteem. That's why the center partners with different work and education programs, even having trade training on site, to get people back on their feet and feeling accomplished.

The subcommittee held a public hearing at Pacific Garden Mission, a shelter in Chicago.

"No amount of handouts or government assistance, no matter how well-intentioned, can substitute for the intangible benefits and dignity that work brings to individuals and their families, and the ripple effect it has on communities," said Rep. Darin LaHood, Illinois Republican and chairman of the subcommittee.

The bipartisan group of 10 lawmakers listened to witnesses from six centers throughout Illinois that offered assistance for people living in poverty. The hearing is used to gain insight into ways that work helps those in poverty, as the subcommittee advocates requiring more people in welfare programs to obtain work, so they can get off of welfare sooner.

"What we've lost sight of is that a job is the best anti-poverty program that exists," said Ways and Means Chairman Jason Smith, Missouri Republican, adding that "relying on a government check can weaken an individual's ability to use and grow their skills."

Matt Paprocki, president and CEO of the Center for Poverty Solutions at the Illinois Policy Institute, said he's found that work can reduce poverty by 87%, and only 2% of those with a full-time job are in poverty.

"Poverty today is less about food and housing insecurity and it's becoming more about hopelessness and dependence," he said. "Meaningful work can solve all of these problems."

He listed three ways that Congress can help lift people out of poverty through work: end the benefits "cliff" that occurs when a person on assistance programs gets a raise that causes their benefits to end, expand tax credits for apprenticeships, and institute work requirements.

Several of the witnesses mentioned the Welfare Reform Act of 1996, and how the welfare program of today should shift back to the mindset that welfare is supposed to be temporary and that getting back into the workforce and being self-sufficient should be the focus.

Ranking member of the Worker and Family Support subcommittee Danny Davis, Illinois Democrat, said there are still many barriers people may face in obtaining "quality" jobs, like needing child care, needing paid leave, lack of education and skills, having criminal records and low wages.

"I strongly disagree with those that blame people for their poverty and suggest that the solution is low or no wage jobs with work requirements to make sure they don't develop a dependency mentality," he said. "Denying people food, housing, enough money to pay the rent, and making them work for free doesn't give them dignity."



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"What we've lost sight of is that a job is the best anti-poverty program that exists," House Ways and Means Committee Chair Rep. Jason Smith said, adding government reliance can weaken abilities to grow skills.

BIDEN

From page A1

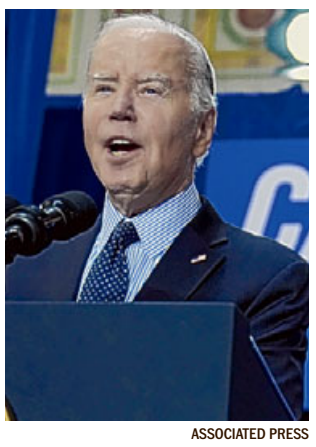
Axios-Ipsos Latino Poll released Tuesday that showed Mr. Biden is less popular with Latinos than the Democratic Party and Mr. Trump's support among Latinos is on the rise.

"I'm not sure optimistic is how they should be feeling," Mr. Cheung said.

At the same time, though, Mr. Biden has led or been tied in a hypothetical head-to-head matchup with Mr. Trump in 7 out of the last 10 national surveys, according to a runny tally by Real Clear Politics.

In addition, a recent Bloomberg News/Morning Consult poll showed Mr. Biden closing the gap on Mr. Trump in 6 of 7 swing states. In Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin, they are neck-and-neck, the survey showed.

Mr. Biden, much like in 2020, also has benefited from the lingering voter distaste for Mr. Trump. Close to half of his supporters said their vote is more against Mr. Trump than for Mr. Biden.



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President Biden's campaign, the DNC and joint fundraising committees took in $90 million last month.

The Biden vs. Trump sequel is shaping up as a lesser-of-two-evils election for many voters.

The debate over 81-year-old Biden's mental acuity will rage through the fall, while Mr. Trump is days away from the beginning of a court trial over his alleged attempts to cover up hush-money payments to an adult film star that is expected to drag on for about a month.

Plus, they both are likely to be running against third-party contenders including Robert F. Kennedy Jr. and Jill Stein, adding another wrinkle into the Election Day calculus.

The campaigns have been left to read the tea leaves, looking for signs of momentum, and ways to energize and expand their voter base.

Democrats have pointed to their victories in the 2023 midterm elections as evidence their message is resonating.

The Biden campaign, meanwhile, has been heralding the success it has had on the fundraising front.

His campaign, the Democratic National Committee, and joint fundraising committees pulled in a whopping $90 million last month, which included a $25 million New York City fundraiser featuring former Presidents Barack Obama and Bill Clinton.

He closed out the month with $192 million cash on hand, more than any other candidate in history at this point in the cycle, and more than double the $93.1 million Republicans raised.

The Biden campaign late last month announced it was opening over 100 campaign offices in swing states, including 44 in Wisconsin. They said it gives them a leg up on Mr. Trump, who has yet to establish a notable ground game.

The Biden campaign's cash is paying for ads in battleground state ads that warn Mr. Trump cannot be trusted to protect a woman's right to an abortion after he fulfilled his 2016 campaign promise of stocking the Supreme Court with justices who would overturn Roe v. Wade.

Mr. Biden also is trying to juice up his base, including his announcement this week that he was taking another crack at erasing student debt for millions of Americans.

For his part, Mr. Biden is projecting confidence.

He says jobs are up, and unemployment is down. He says tens of thousands of people are contributing to his campaign.

"I think the country is ready to come together. I am truly optimistic," Mr. Biden said during a recent appearance on NBC's "Today."

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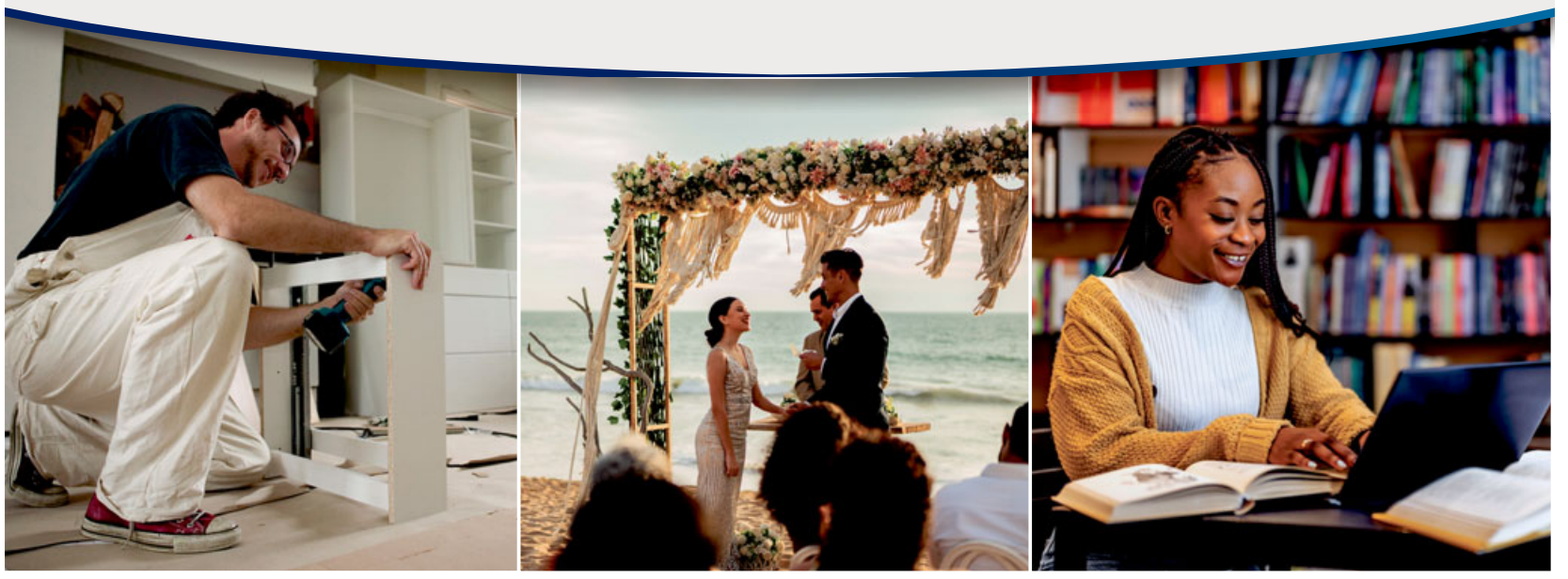

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NEBRASKA

From page A1

Influential conservative talk show host Mark Levin weighed in this week, urging listeners to call Mr. Pillen "and politely ask" that he call a special session to fix the Electoral College vote "so the winner of the popular vote in Nebraska wins all the electoral votes."

Nebraska is one of two states that awards presidential Electoral College votes based partly on the winners of individual congressional districts.

The unusual system, signed into Nebraska law in 1991, could give Mr. Biden the one-vote edge he needs to beat Mr. Trump, the GOP's presumptive nominee.

Maine employs a similar system, and it allowed Mr. Trump in both 2016 and 2020 to snag one of the blue-leaning state's Electoral College votes.

The remaining 48 states use a winner-take-all system that awards electoral votes to the presidential candidate who wins the popular vote statewide.

In Nebraska, three of the five electoral votes are awarded to winners in each of the three districts. Two more are handed to the presidential candidate who wins the most votes statewide.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nebraska is one of two states that awards presidential Electoral College votes based partly on the winners of individual districts. The 2nd District includes Omaha, which is liberal leaning and voted for President Biden in 2020.

The formula in Nebraska made it possible for Mr. Biden to win one of the state's five electoral votes in 2020 thanks to Omaha's Democratic-leaning 2nd Congressional District.

Republicans fear a repeat in Omaha could hand Mr. Biden a second term if he holds on to Michigan, Minnesota, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin, which are part of the "blue wall" of states Democrats traditionally win.

Even if Mr. Trump flips Arizona, Georgia and Nevada and holds onto Florida, North Carolina, and Ohio, Mr. Biden would eke out a 270-268 Electoral College win if Nebraska's 2nd District votes for him, as it did in 2020.

Changing the state's rules to match most of the rest of the country would likely give Mr. Trump all five of the state's electoral votes and leave the electoral vote count tied, 269 to 269.

In the event of a tie, the presidential election will be decided in a contingent election conducted by the newly elected members of the House, where Republicans are clinging to a bare majority that could flip to Democratic control in November. The Senate, whose majority could end up in the hands of Republicans, will decide the vice presidency.

Charlie Kirk, head of Turning Point USA, said Nebraska's Republicans vastly outnumber Democrats and lawmakers should convene in an emergency session and vote to block Mr. Biden from winning one of the state's electoral votes.

"Joe Biden's best and most likely path to the White House is to hold the 'blue wall' plus Nebraska's 2nd District," Mr. Kirk said. "Biden's campaign knows this all too well. Their whole strategy hinges on this one electoral vote in Nebraska, a bright red state where Republicans outnumber Democrats 2-1."

A bill to change the system to winner-take-all, sponsored by state Sen. Loren Lippincott, was blocked by the Nebraska Legislature earlier this month. The session has adjourned for the year unless the governor summons the lawmakers back.

Those who support the current split system say it forces candidates to pay attention to Nebraska voters, who are often ignored in presidential elections.

"The split vote system does keep Nebraska from being a completely 'flyover' state," Sheri St. Clair, government co-director for Nebraska's League of Women Voters, testified earlier this month in opposition to a bill that would change the law to winner-take-all.

Mr. Pillen supports returning Nebraska's Electoral College vote to winner-take-all but has not indicated he'll call a special session to try again to change it.

Mr. Lippincott said the current system dilutes the voice of rural voters by shifting the attention to higher-population districts.

But the Legislature is wary of changing it, he said.

"Presently there are not enough votes to bring 'winner take all' to passage," he told The Washington Times. "We need to plan far ahead and recruit principled conservatives into office."

PANDEMIC

From page A1

criminal groups," said Haywood Talcove, CEO of LexisNexis Risk Solutions' government group.

Acknowledging the hefty work still to do, top Biden officials announced their backing Tuesday for new legislation that would expand the capacity for investigations and prosecutions, raise the cap on civil recovery and double the statute of limitations for prosecuting unemployment fraud to 10 years, giving authorities more time to bring cases.

"The Justice Department's work to identity and prosecute those who stole pandemic relief funds is far from over," Mr. Garland said in backing the new proposal.

The pandemic represented an unparalleled opportunity for scammers, with Congress ordering agencies to pump money into the economy through payments to businesses, the unemployed and states and localities. Speed was the goal, and agencies — prodded by Congress — erased fraud protections to get the money out into communities.

The result was a tsunami of fraud, with the enhanced unemployment benefits, the Paycheck Protection Program and Economic Injury Disaster Loans serving as the juiciest targets.

The government is still working to come up with a total fraud estimate, but outside experts put the figure at anywhere from a few hundred billion up to Mr. Talcove's estimate of $1 trillion.

"Bad actors got their hands on money that was meant to help our communities get through what was an incredibly difficult time. Quite frankly, they just took advantage of the disaster for their own financial gain," said Sen. Gary Peters,



ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Biden administration announced support for new legislation that would expand the capacity for investigations and prosecutions, among other things in order for the government to claw back stolen pandemic relief funds.

Michigan Democrat and one of the sponsors of the legislation.

Biden officials pinned the blame for "historic levels of fraud" on the Trump team for ignoring some basic safeguards in the urgency to pay out. That includes not abiding by the Treasury Department's "Do Not Pay" list or Social Security's "Death Master File."

Gene Sperling, President Biden's pandemic spending coordinator, said following those practices could have saved billions of dollars.

Whatever the blame, the massive fraud exposed an ongoing problem for the government: Once it pays out money, it's almost impossible to get it back.

"Pay and chase doesn't work," said Mr. Talcove, who said the government could have headed off almost all of the fraud by spending a fraction of the $1.4 billion on detection and prevention ahead of the spending.

Thomas A. Schatz, president of Citizens Against Government Waste, said the Small Business Administration, which oversees PPP and EIDL, got enough fraud leads for 100 years of casework.

"Since the money was not accounted for before it was sent, there is no way to calculate how much was stolen. But whatever it is, the unprecedented lack of accountability demonstrates the critical importance of continuing the oversight and recovery of pandemic programs," Mr. Schatz said.

Another factor is the government's leniency.

Adam Andrzejewski, founder of OpenTheBooks.com, a spending watchdog, said the administration has already forgiven $1.4 billion in bogus PPP loans.

"From inefficiency to widespread fraud and unintended consequences, it's clear that Congress rushed to flood the economy with cash without enough forethought," he said. "States with budget surpluses received billions. Small business loans went to tens of thousands of recipients on Treasury's 'Do Not Pay' list. Rushed processes left all manner of programs open to criminals looking to game the system."

Democrats said they're trying to fix some of those problems ahead of a future spending splurge.

The new bill includes millions of dollars for new identity verification systems that can help large federal agencies gain more confidence that they're paying real people.

The legislation would also make permanent the data operation that's at the center of the current pandemic fraud effort. The government's comptroller general says if the feds hadn't disbanded a similar data center after the recovery from the 2008 Wall Street collapse, some of the pandemic fraud could have been blocked at the start.

All told, White House officials said, Mr. Biden is asking for about $1.4 billion in new resources.

Pandemic fraudsters ran the gamut from small-time opportunists — one South Dakota man was just sentenced to 18 months for stealing $20,833 — to career fraudsters, street gangs and Nigerian and Romanian fraud rings.

At the height of the pandemic, people were posting how-to tutorials on social media to share methods for stealing the government's money.

Among the more than 3,500 federal pandemic fraud defendants is the sentencing last week of Takiyah Gordon Austin, who had been an employee at Social Security during the pandemic and used her position to steal Social Security numbers of Americans and file bogus unemployment claims in their name, directing the payments to her own accounts.

Austin, a Pennsylvania resident, stole names of prisoners, the homeless, disabled and dead people, walked away with $288,590. She was given three years in federal prison.

In Ohio, a judge last month slapped a sentence of nearly eight years on Terrence L. Pounds, who filed $9.5 million in bogus loan applications and collected $4.2 million. He poured some of that money into vehicles — a 2021 Chevrolet Tahoe, a 2021 Kia Telluride, a 2020 Hyundai Elantra and a 2020 BMX X4 — which have all been seized.

In Oregon, Justin David Goulet got more than two years in prison last week for stealing $163,100. Prosecutors said he spent his money on cars and illegal drugs.

Kelly Bree Mosley, who pleaded guilty to pandemic fraud in North Carolina on March 29, spent some of her $125,317 on liposuction.

The cases announced to date are almost exclusively domestic frauds, even though experts say a massive amount of the cash was stolen by criminal syndicates operating from abroad, oftentimes with links to foreign adversary governments.

The Biden officials said Tuesday that going after those sorts of sophisticated fraudsters will require new and persistent investment, including Congress being willing to pony up multiyear funding for some of the investigative operations.

"Without that, we may lose people. You could have layoffs instead of people persisting on getting the most serious syndicates that stole the most funds," Mr. Sperling said.

BUSINESS

From page A1

economy, and now we're seeing it lag."

According to the Small Business Administration, Washington had 79,814 small businesses last year, accounting for 98.2% of all companies in the city.

The D.C. Policy Center said local businesses that were at least 10 years old, employed more than 100 people and had more than $5 million in operating revenue in the last 12 months "accounted for a substantial portion of the survey sample."

Their pessimism could reflect the city's "weak commercial real estate market" since real estate, rental and leasing companies had a "strong representation" among survey participants, the think tank said.

The survey also found that 4 in 10 District businesses expect gross revenues to be "somewhat" or "much" lower in the next six months, even though most said they were not letting employees go.

It pointed to data showing that Washington's economy has declined as the rest of the nation recovers from the pandemic.

For example, the national economy added 2.76 million jobs from January 2023 to January 2024, a 1.8% increase. Over the same period, the District added 2,700 jobs, a 0.3% increase that the D.C. Policy Center said is "not statistically significant."

As of November, 22% of all available office spaces in the D.C. Central Business District were not being used, according to the property management company Kastle Systems. The policy center expects that percentage to grow as former commuters keep working virtually from Maryland and Virginia over the next few years, prompting more businesses to end their commercial leases.

According to Ms. Sayin, nearly 800,000 people worked in Washington before the pandemic, with two-thirds of them commuting daily from Maryland and Virginia. That included roughly 200,000 government workers and 570,000 private sector workers.

She said private sector office occupancy is now about 50% "on the best day."

"The federal government, nobody knows who is working from the office," Ms. Sayin added. "Since the pandemic, people are just not coming into the office as often. Furthermore, a lot of people have moved from high-cost metro areas like D.C. to smaller, lower-cost Sunbelt cities like Atlanta."

The survey comes as Washington grapples with an unprecedented funding crisis.

City officials have blamed it on fewer people shopping, dining or working downtown on weekdays since the outbreak of COVID-19.

Other problems include pandemic relief funding drying up this year, crime-plagued retailers pulling out of depopulated streets, plunging commercial real estate values, mass transit ridership declining and struggling restaurants closing.

D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser has proposed deep cuts to social programs such as affordable housing grants and several tax increases — including a gradual sales tax hike — to offset $800 million in budget deficits for fiscal 2025, which begins Oct. 1.

The D.C. Council must approve a new budget by June 12.

In the D.C. Policy Center survey, 89% of businesses reported making more investments in security over the past year — including paying for additional surveillance cameras, alarms and security guards.

Businesses that reported being plagued by crime over the past 12 months said the most common problems were disruptive behavior such as loitering, drug or alcohol use, and property damage such as graffiti, vandalism and arson.

The Times has reached out to the D.C. Council, the mayor's office and the Office of the Chief Financial Officer for comment on the survey.

Fitzroy Lee, the District's deputy CFO and chief economist, said the D.C. job market has struggled to grow since the pandemic as business and professional services have expanded work-from-home hiring.

"This has narrowed the pool of labor available for hiring, and many of the District's key sectors, such as the leisure and hospitality sector, have had difficulty hiring employees," Mr. Lee said. "In the past, the federal government was a significant contributor to D.C.'s job growth, but, after continuing to grow during the pandemic, the federal government has been shedding jobs in the post-pandemic period."

Council member Matt Frumin, Ward 3 Democrat, and Chairman Phil Mendelson, at-large Democrat, were unavailable for comment.

Council member Robert C. White, at-large Democrat, blamed remote work and rampant crime for the city's bleak financial outlook emerging from the pandemic.

"The District's business ecosystem ... is still contending with spikes in crime, as well as the shift to remote work in a city that has historically relied on the presence of federal workers," said Mr. White, who unsuccessfully challenged Ms. Bowser for his party's nomination in the 2022 mayoral election. "I've spoken with leaders of businesses of all sizes, and too many feel neglected and unheard when they share their realities."

At a ribbon-cutting Monday for the Metropolitan Police Department's Real-Time Crime Center, Ms. Bowser's office touted roughly $29.5 million of public safety funding in her proposed budget that it said will produce a "net gain" in hiring cops for the first time in five years.

The mayor also promoted a program that will let residents and businesses share security camera footage 24/7 with law enforcement agencies through the center.

"We have been focused, for many years now, on how we expand our network of cameras, because we know that video plays a key role in investigating cases and successfully prosecuting criminals," Ms. Bowser said. "Now, we are calling on residents and businesses to partner with us ... to help us build a safer, stronger D.C."

DEATH NOTICE

Simpkins, David Ray

David Ray Simpkins, 92, met his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, on April 6, 2024, with his beloved wife at his side. Married to his sweetheart for nearly 69 years, David was a devoted husband to wife, OraMae, and a loving father to his daughters, Judith Davies (John), Lisa Schuessler (Stephen), Pamela Michael (Kurt), and Maridelle Malone (Samuel). As well, David is survived by his nine grandchildren and their spouses and a great-grandson, John.

A descendent of the Deming, Barnum and Lewis families, David was born in the Lincolnia area of Alexandria, Virginia, to Delle R.C. Lewis Simpkins and Albert Edward Simpkins on May 16, 1931. David was born in the house previously owned by one of President George Washington's doctors, Dr. Elisha Cullen Dick.

David graduated from Fairfax High School in 1948. He served in the U.S. Army in Korea and upon his return married OraMae Ingram of South Boston, Virginia, in June 1955.

Working in the homebuilding and automotive businesses, David was a master craftsman and never found anything he couldn't fix. His strong faith in God and love of people found him reaching out to others on a daily basis with spiritual encouragement and physical help.

David leaves a lasting legacy of godliness, love and generosity to his extended family and friends. His kind, positive outlook and loving heart left a deep impression wherever he went.

The family wishes to send a special thank you to the wonderful caregivers of The Key Caregiving group as well as the amazing nurses and aides at Burke Health and Rehab Center.

In lieu of flowers, it is the family's wish that any memorial tributes be made in the form of charitable donations to International Missions Outreach
Address: P.O. Box 1145, Clendenin, WV 25045
Telephone: 304-548-7009

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." 2 Timothy 4:7

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Nation

ECONOMY

Conservative economists: Utah still the most business-friendly state

New York once again ranked dead last in annual forecast

By Sean Salai
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Utah stands as the most business-friendly state for the 17th straight year in an annual conservative economic forecast announced Tuesday, with New York dead last for the 11th consecutive year.

The American Legislative Exchange Council, a network of conservative private investors and state lawmakers, found in the Rich States, Poor States report that Utah again dominated a range of 15 indicators after passing sweeping tax cuts for the fourth straight year. Utah has topped the list every year since it started in 2007.

Arthur Laffer, a member of President Ronald Reagan's Economic Policy Advisory Board, worked with former Trump presidential adviser Stephen Moore and ALEC chief economist Jonathan Williams to rank all 50 states. Their analysis favored those with generous tax incentives, light regulatory burdens and low debt.

"Americans are voting with their feet and fleeing the high-tax, high-regulation states like California, New York and Illinois for pro-growth, pro-employment havens like Utah, Idaho and Arizona, where leaders rely on a set of free-market principles and pro-taxpayer reforms that landed those states at the top of our rankings," Mr. Williams said.

In a statement, Utah State Senate President J. Stuart Adams applauded the list. He touted the state's balanced budget and pointed to $1.3 billion in tax cuts that his fellow Republicans in the Utah Legislature passed the past four years.

"We continue to emulate our pioneer ancestors' industrious nature and strategic foresight that transformed our state into the economic powerhouse it is today," said Mr. Adams, a Republican representing the state Senate's 7th District.

The study builds on demographic trends that show more people have relocated from states with high-income taxes to states with lower tax rates in recent years.

Idaho, Arizona, North Carolina, Indiana, Texas, South Dakota, Wyoming, Oklahoma and North Dakota rounded out the top 10 states after Utah.

According to ALEC, Idaho rose to the second spot from fourth place last year due to "significant 2022 tax cuts."

Texas jumped from 13th to sixth place over the same period after passing the biggest tax cuts in state history last year. The group also noted that Texas broke into the top 10 after receiving a flood of residents moving from other states.

On the other side of the ranking, Vermont, Illinois, California, New Jersey, Maine, Minnesota, Maryland, Oregon and Hawaii completed the 10 worst states for businesses after New York.

The annual report has ranked New York last for 15 out of 17 years due to steep tax burdens, high government spending and complex regulatory policies. The state finished 49th in 2008 and 2013.

Lisa B. Nelson, CEO of ALEC, said the rankings confirm that workers and businesses "follow the jobs, the freedoms and the opportunity to achieve."



ASSOCIATED PRESS

A law enacted in Arizona in 1864 criminalizing all abortions except when a mother's life is in danger can be enforced, the state Supreme Court ruled Tuesday. The long-dormant statute provides no exceptions for cases of rape or incest.

ARIZONA

Democrats say abortion ruling could help them in state elections

By Jonathan J. Cooper
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PHOENIX | Democrats pounced Tuesday on an Arizona Supreme Court ruling that permits enforcement of an 1864 law effectively banning abortion in the state, blaming former President Donald Trump and pressing for political advantage on an issue that could dominate a critical 2024 battleground.

The ruling permits doctors or others to be prosecuted for performing an abortion at any time unless the mother's life is in danger, with no exceptions for rape or incest. President Biden's campaign immediately blamed the ruling on Mr. Trump's appointment of three U.S. Supreme Court justices.

"The girls today and the young women do not have the rights that we once did because of Donald Trump," said Phoenix Mayor Kate Gallego, a Democrat. "Donald Trump is dangerous and reckless."

The decision will give Arizona the strictest abortion law of the top-tier battleground states heading into November's election. Mr. Biden and his allies are emphasizing efforts to restore abortion access, while Mr. Trump has avoided endorsing a national abortion ban.

In a sign of Republicans' political bind, Kari Lake, a staunch Trump ally and abortion opponent who is running for U.S. Senate in Arizona, said a total abortion ban "is out of step with Arizonans."

"This issue should be decided by Arizonans, not legislated from the bench," saidRep. David Schweikert, Arizona Republican.

Mr. Trump reshaped the U.S. Supreme Court during his presidency, paving the way for the Dobbs decision in 2022 that allowed the enforcement of state laws like Arizona's that had remained. technically on the books, but unenforceable because of the federal right under 1973's Roe decision.

Mr. Trump says abortion limits should be left to the states and declined to endorse a national ban.

"President Trump could not have been more clear," Trump campaign spokeswoman Karoline Leavitt said in a statement. "These are decisions for people of each state to make."

Meanwhile, the White House announced Vice President Kamala Harris will travel to Arizona later this week to tout abortion rights.

Democratic Attorney General Kris Mayes, who was elected by just 280 votes in 2022, attributed her victory to backlash over the Dobbs decision. She said Tuesday's ruling will again spur prochoiuce independents and Republicans to vote for Democrats.

"If past is prologue, this is going to have a deep and lasting impact on politics in Arizona," she said.

The old law was first enacted among a set of laws known as the "Howell Code" adopted by the 1st Arizona Territorial Legislature in 1864, before Arizona became a state in 1912. Legislative researchers said it remained in the penal code in 1901 and was readopted in subsequent rewrites, including in the 1970s.

A proposal pending before the Arizona Legislature that would repeal the 1864 law hasn't received a committee hearing this year.

The justices said the state can start enforcing the law in 14 days. Former Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey, a Republican who signed the state's current law restricting abortion after 15 weeks, posted on X that Tuesday's ruling was not what he wanted.

MICHIGAN

Parents of high school shooter sentenced to at least 10 years in prison

Judge cites repeated failures, negligence

By Ed White
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PONTIAC, MICH. | The first parents convicted in a U.S. mass school shooting were sentenced to at least 10 years in prison Tuesday as a Michigan judge lamented missed opportunities that could have prevented their teenage son from possessing a gun and killing four students in 2021.

"These convictions are not about poor parenting," Judge Cheryl Matthews said. "These convictions confirm repeated acts, or lack of acts, that could have halted an oncoming runaway train."

The Crumbleys were "repeatedly ignoring things that would make a reasonable person feel the hair on the back of their neck stand up," the judge said.

Jennifer and James Crumbley did not know Ethan Crumbley had a handgun — he called it his "beauty" — in his backpack when he was dropped off at Oxford High School.

But prosecutors convinced jurors the parents still played a disastrous role in the violence, winning convictions in separate trials earlier this year of involuntary manslaughter.

The Crumbleys were accused of not securing the newly purchased gun at home and acting indifferently to signs of their son's deteriorating mental health, especially when confronted with a chilling classroom drawing earlier that same day.

"The blood of our children is on your hands, too," said Craig Shilling, wearing a hoodie with the image of son Justin Shilling on his chest.

Nicole Beausoleil, the mother of Madisyn Baldwin, recalled simple things she enjoyed doing for her daughter, such as scheduling an oil change for her car or helping choose senior year classes.

"While you were purchasing a gun for your son and leaving it unlocked, I was helping her finish her college essays," Ms. Beausoleil told the Crumbleys.

Prosecutor Karen McDonald asked the judge to stretch beyond the sentencing guidelines and order a minimum 10-year prison sentence.

Defense attorneys sought to keep the Crumbleys out of prison, noting they have already spent nearly 2 1/2 years in jail, unable to afford a $500,000 bond after their arrest.

They will get credit for that jail time and become eligible for parole after serving 10 years in custody. If release from prison is denied, they could be held for up to 15 years.

Five deputies in the suburban Detroit courtroom stood closely over the couple and more lined the walls. James Crumbley, 47, had been recorded in jail making threats toward Ms. McDonald.

Before being sentenced, he stood and insisted he did not know his son was deeply troubled.

"My heart is really broken for everybody involved. ... I have cried for you and the loss of your children more times than I can count," he said.

Jennifer Crumbley, 46, began her remarks by expressing "deepest sorrow" about the shooting. She also said her comment at her trial about looking back and not doing anything differently was "completely misunderstood."

"My son did seem so normal. I didn't have a reason to do anything different," Jennifer Crumbley said.

She blamed the school for not giving her the "bigger picture" about her son sleeping in class, watching a video of a mass shooting, writing negative thoughts about his family.

Jurors heard how the teen had drawn a gun, a bullet and a gunshot victim on a math assignment, accompanied by grim phrases: "The thoughts won't stop. Help me. My life is useless. Blood everywhere."

Ethan told a counselor he was sad but said the drawing only reflected his interest in creating video games.

The Crumbleys attended a meeting at the school that lasted less than 15 minutes. His parents declined to take him home and school staff said Ethan could stay on campus. A counselor, Shawn Hopkins, said he believed it would be safer for the boy than possibly being alone at home.

OHIO

Norfolk Southern to pay $600M settlement in East Palestine derailment

By Josh Funk
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Norfolk Southern has agreed to pay $600 million in a class-action lawsuit settlement related to a fiery train derailment in February 2023 in eastern Ohio, but residents worry the money not only won't go far enough to cover future health needs that could be tremendous but also won't amount to much once divided up.

"It's not nowhere near my needs, let alone what the health effects are going to be five or 10 years down the road," said Eric Cozza, who lived just three blocks from the derailment and had 47 family members living within a mile.

More than three dozen of the freight train's 149 cars derailed on the outskirts of East Palestine, a town of almost 5,000 residents near the Pennsylvania state line. Several cars spilled a cocktail of hazardous materials that caught fire.

Three days later, officials, fearing an explosion, blew open five tank cars filled with vinyl chloride and burned the toxic chemical — sending thick, black plumes of smoke into the air. Some 1,500 to 2,000 residents were evacuated.

More than a year later, residents still complain of respiratory problems, unexplained rashes and nosebleeds. But the greater fear is that people will develop cancer or other serious conditions because of the chemical to which they were exposed.

Researchers have only begun to work on determining the lasting repercussions of the derailment.

Norfolk Southern said Tuesday that the agreement, if approved by the court, will resolve all class-action claims within a 20-mile radius from the derailment and, for those residents who choose to participate, personal injury claims within a 10-mile radius from the derailment.

Norfolk Southern added that individuals and businesses will be able to use compensation from the settlement in any manner they see fit to address potential adverse effects from the derailment, which could include health care needs, property restoration and compensation for any business loss.

Individuals within 10 miles of the derailment may choose at their discretion to receive further compensation for any past, current or future personal injury from the derailment.

The company said that the settlement doesn't include or constitute any admission of liability, wrongdoing or fault.

The settlement is expected to be submitted for preliminary approval to the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Ohio later this month. Payments to class members under the settlement could begin by the end of the year, subject to final court approval.

The company said Tuesday that individuals and businesses will be able to use compensation from the settlement as they see fit.

Norfolk Southern has already spent more than $1.1 billion on its response to the derailment, including more than $104 million in direct aid to East Palestine and its residents.

Partly because Norfolk Southern is paying for the cleanup, President Biden has never declared a disaster in East Palestine, a sore point for many residents.

Federal officials last week said the derailment aftermath doesn't qualify as a public health emergency because widespread health problems and ongoing chemical exposures haven't been documented.

The railroad has promised to create a fund for the long-term health needs of the community, but hasn't done so yet.

East Palestine resident Krissy Ferguson called the settlement a "heartwrenching day."

"I just feel like we've been victimized over and over and over again," she said. "Contamination is still flowing down the creeks. People are still sick. And I think people that had the power to fight took an easy way out."

The plaintiffs' attorneys said the deal is the result of a year of intense investigation of the derailment, and should provide meaningful relief to residents.

Still, residents like Misti Allison have many unanswered questions.

"After all the lawyers are paid and the legal fees are accounted for, how much funding will be provided for families? And is that going to be enough for any of these potential damages moving forward?" she said.

The railroad announced preliminary first-quarter earnings of 23 cents per share Tuesday, which reflects the cost of the $600 million settlement. Without the settlement and other one-time costs, the railroad said it would have made $2.39 per share.

HISTORY

Hi, neighbor? Study suggests brown rats arrived earlier than 1776

By Laura Ungar
THE WASHINGTON TIMES



ASSOCIATED PRESS

A study published earlier this month in the journal Science Advances suggests brown rats crawled off ships arriving in the Americas earlier than previously thought and outcompeted rodent rivals. They're so ubiquitous that they're known as common rats.

Brown rats are the undisputed winners of the real rat race.

New research suggests that they crawled off ships arriving in North America earlier than previously thought and outcompeted rodent rivals — going on to infuriate and disgust generations of city-dwellers and becoming so ubiquitous that they're known as common rats, street rats or sewer rats.

It didn't take long for them to push aside the black rats that had likely arrived with Christopher Columbus and thrived in colonial cities.

After first appearing on the continent before 1740, brown rats took over the East Coast from black rats "in only a matter of decades," said Michael Buckley, one of the authors of a study published Wednesday in the journal Science Advances.

Brown rats are larger and more aggressive than black rats — and they want to be close to human populations, said Matthew Frye, a researcher and community educator with the New York State Integrated Pest Management Program at Cornell University.

From this research, "we know a more exact time of when they arrived and then what they were doing once they got here," said Mr. Frye, who was not involved with the study. "Having that picture of the rat population helps us better understand what they're doing and maybe how we can manage them."

Neither rat species is native to North America, said Mr. Buckley, of the University of Manchester in the United Kingdom. Scientists used to think that brown rats arrived around 1776. The new study pushes that date back by more than 35 years.

Mr. Buckley and his colleagues analyzed rodent bones that had already been excavated by archaeologists. The remains came from 32 settlements in eastern North America and the Gulf of Mexico dated from the founding of Jamestown in 1607 through the early 1900s. Other samples were from seven shipwrecks dating from about 1550 to 1770.

The data suggests that shipping networks across the Atlantic Ocean "essentially functioned as rat superhighways," with brown rats gaining their earliest footholds in coastal shipping centers, said Ryan Kennedy, a study author at Indiana University who researches animal remains at archaeological sites.

One probable reason they dominated, researchers suggest, is that they ate food black rats would otherwise have consumed — which may have reduced reproduction among black rats. Historical anecdotes back up this finding, describing the near disappearance of black rats from cities in the 1830s.

Today, both types of rats exist in North American cities, though brown rats are more prevalent. Some urban centers are especially overrun. New York City, for example, last year hired a "rat czar" to tackle a growing problem there.

The biggest issue? Rats can carry diseases. Brown rats are known to spread a bacterial disease called leptospirosis, which is caused by bacteria in the urine of infected animals. They can also help spread murine typhus and foodborne germs like salmonella.

Experts said knowing which type of rat leads the pack helps cities control the pests — even if it may not seem like it sometimes.

For instance, brown rats like to hang out on or near the ground rather than in the trees or other high spots, where black rats often prefer to stay.

BRIEFLY
THE NATION

IDAHO

FBI: Informant stopped plan for massacre by ISIS supporter

BOISE | An 18-year-old Muslim planned to attack churches in a northern Idaho city using a metal pipe, butane fuel, a machete and, if he could get them, his father's guns, according to federal prosecutors who charged him with attempting to provide material support to the Islamic State group.

Authorities said Alexander Scott Mercurio adopted the Muslim faith against his Christian parents' wishes and was in contact with FBI informants posing as Islamic State group supporters.

Mr. Mercurio was arrested Saturday, the day before investigators believe he planned to carry out the attack. He did not immediately respond Tuesday to an email sent through a jail inmate email system.

Mr. Mercurio told one informant he intended to incapacitate his father with the pipe, handcuff him and steal his guns and a car to carry out the attack in Coeur d'Alene, according to a sworn statement in the case in U.S. District Court by FBI task force officer John Taylor II.

If he could get the key and access the closet, Mr. Mercurio said in an audio recording he gave the informant, "everything will be so much easier and better and I will achieve better things," according to the statement.

The recording was to accompany a photo the informant took of Mr. Mercurio in front of the Islamic State flag holding up a knife and his index finger.

— *Associated Press*

NEVADA

Lawyer kills ex-daughter-in-law, her new husband, then himself

A Las Vegas man shot and killed his former daughter-in-law and her attorney — who was also her husband — before turning the gun on himself, police said.

Las Vegas police Lt. Jason Johansson said the two victims, who weren't identified by authorities, were gunned down around 10 a.m. Monday at a child custody hearing in a law office near Red Rock Casino.

Sheriff Kevin McMahill said the shooter killed himself soon after.

Sources told CBS affiliate KLAS-TV that the victims were attorney Dennis Prince and Ashley Prince and the gunman was attorney Joe Houston II.

Mr. Houston was representing his son, Dylan Houston, in the child custody proceedings.

Dylan Houston filed for divorce from Mrs. Prince in 2021. Mr. and Mrs. Prince recently had a child.

— *Matt Delaney*

MISSOURI

State executes man who killed relatives to pay off drug debts

BONNE TERRE | A Missouri man was executed Tuesday for killing his cousin and her husband nearly two decades ago in an attack that left the couple's 4-year-old daughter home alone and unharmed.

Brian Dorsey, 52, was pronounced dead at 6:11 p.m. after a single-dose injection of the sedative pentobarbital at the state prison in Bonne Terre, Karen Pojmann, communications director for the Missouri Department of Corrections, said in an email.

It was the first execution in Missouri this year after four in 2023, and it came hours after the U.S. Supreme Court rejected the killer's final appeals.

Dorsey took a few deep breaths as the drug was injected, then several shallow, quick breaths. At one point he raised his head from the pillow and blinked hard. After several seconds, all movement stopped.

Dorsey, 52, formerly of Jefferson City, was convicted of killing Sarah and Ben Bonnie on Dec. 23, 2006, at their home. Prosecutors said that earlier that day, Dorsey had called Sarah Bonnie seeking to borrow money to pay two drug dealers at his apartment.

Dorsey went to the Bonnies' home that night. After they went to bed, Dorsey killed them, and stole several items to pay off the drug debt.

— *Associated Press*

MISSOURI

Rescuers save mountain goat stuck under Kansas City bridge

An escaped mountain goat that somehow got stuck under a Kansas City bridge has survived a rocky rescue effort and now may be reunited with owners who suspect he was stolen from their farm two months ago.

"It's the story that captured the hearts of Kansas City," said Tori Fugate, of the KC Pet Project, a nonprofit that handles animal control for the city and operates shelters.

After Monday's eclipse, people spotted the animal, believed to be a missing goat named Chug, hopping around on the pillars that support the bridge, high above the ground below.

Hoping to guide it to safety, a driver managed to get a rope around the goat's neck, but that only added to the danger.

When firefighters tried to rappel over the side of the bridge to capture the goat, he spooked and tried to jump to the next platform. But his hooves slipped and the rope caught.

— *Associated Press*

SPACE

From page A1



ASSOCIATED PRESS

The current space systems and programs in the U.S. are becoming dominated by high-tech companies in the private sector, a new report from Pentagon experts said.

leadership capable of shaping a free and open system — if the current space industry is bolstered.

"To sustainably win the new space race is to determine the conditions for which future generations may inherit not just the technological achievements of our day, but the preservation of our values, a free and open society, a free market economy and the right of self-determination free from tyranny and oppression," the report said. "[W]e must not become China to beat China; rather, we simply need to be more American to remain American."

Current U.S. space systems and programs are becoming dominated by private-sector high-tech companies and the American lead in these areas must continue, the report said, noting that new ideas are needed to "disrupt the status quo at the speed and scale necessary to compete and win."

A major problem for the U.S. is what the report calls "bureaucratic inefficiency" that is stifling space innovation and competitiveness.

Space companies recently informed Congress they are building new technologies faster than the federal bureaucracy can license systems using the know-how in satellites or rockets.

The 124-page report, "State of the Space Industrial Base 2023," was edited by Air Force Research Laboratory expert Peter Garretson. It was written by Space Force Maj. Gen. John M. Olson, Steven J. Butow, with the Pentagon's Defense Innovation Unit (DIU), and Andy Williams and Andrew J. Metcalf of the Air Force Research Laboratory. The DIU is a Pentagon unit working to speed up the use of civilian technology for the military.

"The report provides the go-to open-source net assessment of the relative positions of the United States vs. China in Space Race 2.0, and a very long laundry list of things the U.S. must accomplish if it intends to win," said Mr. Garretson.

The report focused on how the current space industrial base is helping transform the U.S. military with technology investments and experimentation, fortifying the defense "ecosystem" and strengthening resilience.

In the past, the government took the lead in space research spending and the innovation it produced. Today, the commercial sector dominates both spending and innovation.

"Yet the commercial space regulatory and licensing processes remain decentralized, overly bureaucratic and slow-by-design," the report said.

Commercial space companies are at risk of collapsing unless regulations are streamlined and processes used by the government are improved. And China is poised to seize on U.S. shortcomings.

Beijing is "ready to step in and dominate in the wake of such a collapse," the report said.

Costs of building and launching satellites range up to millions of dollars per month. The high cost is one reason most successful commercial space companies so far have been underwritten by megabillionaires like SpaceX's Elon Musk and Blue Origin's Jeff Bezos.

The new commercial space industry was born a little more than a decade ago and managed to survive the COVID-19 pandemic, banking crises and mounting inflation, the report said.

Seeking an edge

A year ago, Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin took steps to bolster what he calls integrated deterrence against threats posed by China and Russia through sharpening the technological edge of the U.S. military. Mr. Austin said a key part of that effort is speeding up the military's adoption of commercial technology.

Among the recommendations, the report called for considering the creation of a Cabinet-level Space Department or National Space Agency to accelerate strategic space programs.

"This approach is properly aligned with the national imperative of retaining U.S. leadership in commercial, civil and national security space in light of the on-going strategic competition with the PRC, Russia and other emerging space powers," the report said, using the acronym for People's Republic of China.

The United States also needs to collaborate on space programs with allies and partners, including some 14 allied nations currently working on military space capabilities, including many that themselves are worried by China's space power.

Commercial space technology is already helping Ukraine's military command and control through the use of Mr. Musk's Starlink satellite communications. The systems are capable of withstanding Russian electronic warfare, the report said.

"The commercial sector is an essential piece to collective security — innovation is faster, sharing is broader, and capital investment is growing," the report said. "Access to and rapid incorporation of latest technologies, and architectures are critical to building resiliency in space."

China also is advancing the use of advanced space propulsion systems that could risk U.S. defeat in the space race.

To better compete, the U.S. needs to speed up work on advanced power and propulsion systems. These advanced systems will be needed for future on-orbit satellite servicing and manufacturing, dynamic space operations, in-space logistics and deep space human exploration, the report said.

Civilian companies are currently working with the U.S. government on nuclear thermal propulsion for space systems, the report said, urging streamlining current regulations in that field.

"In contrast, the PRC is rapidly advancing in its own space nuclear power program, with a 'Megawatt-class Ultra-small Liquid Metal Cooled Space Nuclear Reactor' recently passing a Ministry of Science and Technology comprehensive performance evaluation," the report said.

The growing collaboration between China and Russia only highlights the need for a more effective American space effort, the report said.

China recently demonstrated the ability to maneuver close to a U.S. satellite, an action that could be used by the military to grab or crush orbiting satellites.

"Companies such as ExoAnalytic this year observed the activity and apparent strategic maneuvering of adversarial satellites, namely China's Shijian-23," the report said.

The U.S. also needs to quickly develop capabilities for what the report called "in-space servicing, assembly and manufacturing" or ISAM.

"Without bold action, the United States could be outpaced by foreign competition — in the implementation of ISAM capabilities into future space architectures. Europe, Japan, and China are all advancing their national capabilities in ISAM, which may lead to standards, interfaces and commercial services to develop around those established by the U.S.'s peers and competitors, shifting the center of gravity away from the U.S. industrial base," the report said.

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MIDDLE EAST

Austin: U.S. sees no evidence of genocide

Pentagon chief defends $850 billion defense budget as message to adversaries

By Mike Glenn
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

The U.S. has seen no evidence Israel has committed genocide against Palestinians in the Gaza Strip since launching a war against Hamas following the Oct. 7 terror attack that killed more than 1,200 people, Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin told lawmakers Tuesday.

Despite sharp warnings to Israel from the Biden White House over the Israeli campaign, Mr. Austin said the U.S. did not back the charges of some of Israel's harshest critics.

Mr. Austin's statement came during his testimony to the Senate Armed Services Committee over President Biden's $850 billion defense budget. As has become almost a standard practice on Capitol Hill these days, the hearing was interrupted several times by demonstrators protesting the Biden administration's support for Israel in its military campaign in the Palestinian enclave.

Mr. Biden is under increasing pressure from his own liberal political base over the mounting civilian casualties and devastation in Gaza as Israel battles entrenched Hamas militants.

"We don't have any evidence of genocide being created" by Israel, Mr. Austin said in response to a question from Sen. Tom Cotton, Arkansas Republican, who called the allegation "nothing more than anti-Israel propaganda."

Mr. Cotton also asked the Pentagon chief to respond to charges that Washington was "greenlighting" genocide by providing military support to Israel. Mr. Austin said he denies any allegation that the U.S. is complicit in genocide.

"From the very beginning, we committed to help assist Israel in defending its territory and its people by providing security assistance," he said. "What happened on Oct. 7 was absolutely horrible — numbers of Israeli citizens killed and then a couple of hundred Israeli citizens taken hostage. American citizens as well."

While Mr. Austin pushed back against the genocide claims against Israel, the Biden administration has repeatedly clashed with the government of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu over tactics and strategy in the Gaza fighting.

U.S. officials have warned Israel against launching an operation into Rafah, a city in the southern Gaza Strip, until provisions are made for about 1.3 million civilians there. Israel said at least two Hamas battalions are thought to still be operating in the city, and Mr. Netanyahu has insisted the Rafah campaign will continue.

"There is no question that there have been far too many civilian casualties in this conflict," Mr. Austin said. "We continue to emphasize to the Israelis that civilians in that battle space need to be evacuated and properly taken care of."

Sen. Elizabeth Warren, Massachusetts Democrat, claimed that more than 30,000 Palestinians, mostly women and children, have been killed there since the start of the war. It is the same figure widely repeated by Gaza's health ministry, which is under the control of Hamas.

"Do you think an attack on Rafah that kills another 30,000 civilians would enhance either U.S. or Israeli security?" she asked.

Washington has stepped up the pressure on Israel to negotiate a cease-fire after an Israeli airstrike last week mistakenly killed seven aid workers delivering food in Gaza. Mr. Austin said he has regular conversations with his Israeli counterpart, Defense Minister Yoav Gallant, and most recently spoke to him on Monday.

"It cannot be, going forward what we've seen in the past in terms of the type of activities that we've seen in Gaza City and Khan Younis," he said. "Far too many civilians have been killed as a result of combat operations. They need to get civilians out of that battle space around Rafah."

While much of the hearing focused on the Israel-Hamas conflict, Mr. Austin also defended Mr. Biden's proposed $850 billion defense budget for fiscal 2025, arguing it will keep the nation safe by taking on an increasingly aggressive China and the threat posed by Russian President Vladimir Putin's invasion of neighboring Ukraine.

If approved by Congress, the request will invest in cutting-edge technology by setting aside more than $48 billion for naval shipbuilding to strengthen and modernize the fleet, $61 billion to reinforce dominance in the air, and $13 billion to bolster the combat capabilities of the Army and Marine Corps, Mr. Austin said.

The budget request will also address glaring quality-of-life issues for those in uniform, he said. Mr. Austin said it is geared to "our outstanding troops and their families."

"That includes raising base pay and housing allowances, investing in better housing, and making child care more accessible and affordable," Mr. Austin said.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

"We don't have any evidence of genocide being created" by Israel, Defense Chief Lloyd Austin told lawmakers Tuesday. Mr. Austin denies any allegation that the U.S. is complicit in genocides and is committed to help Israel in defending its territory.

FRANCE

Rights verdict for Swiss women may have ripple effect

Court rules countries must improve protection from climate change effects

By Molly Quell and Raf Casert
ASSOCIATED PRESS

STRASBOURG, FRANCE | Europe's highest human rights court ruled Tuesday that countries must better actively protecting their people from the consequences of climate change, siding with a group of older Swiss women against their government in a landmark ruling that could have implications across the continent.

The European Court of Human Rights rejected two other, similar cases on procedural grounds — a high-profile action brought by Portuguese young people and another by a French mayor that sought to force governments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

But the verdict in the Swiss case, nonetheless, sets a legal precedent in the Council of Europe's 46 member states against which future lawsuits will be judged.

"This is a turning point," said Corina Heri, an expert in climate change litigation at the University of Zurich.

Although activists have had success with lawsuits in domestic proceedings, this was the first time an international court ruled on climate change — and the first decision confirming that countries have an obligation to protect people from its effects, according to Ms. Heri. She said it would open the door to more legal challenges in the countries that are members of the Council of Europe, which includes the 27 EU nations as well as many others from Britain to Turkey.

The Swiss ruling softened the blow for those who lost Tuesday.

"The most important thing is that the court has said in the Swiss women's case that governments must cut their emissions more to protect human rights," said 19-year-old Sofia Oliveira, one of the Portuguese plaintiffs. "Their win is a win for us, too, and a win for everyone!"

The court, which is not related to the European Union, ruled that Switzerland "had failed to comply with its duties" to combat climate change and meet emissions targets.

That, the court said, was a violation of the women's rights, noting that the European Convention on Human Rights guarantees people "effective protection by the state authorities from the serious adverse effects of climate change on their lives, health, well-being and quality of life."

A group called Senior Women for Climate Protection, whose average age is 74, had argued that they were particularly affected because older women are most vulnerable to the extreme heat that is becoming more frequent.

"The court recognized our fundamental right to a healthy climate and to have our country do what it failed to do until now: that is to say taking ambitious measures to protect our health and protect the future of all," said Anne Mahrer, a member of the group.

Switzerland said it would study the decision to see what steps would be needed. "We have to, in good faith, implement and execute the judgment," Alain Chablais, who represented the country at last year's hearings, said after the verdict.

Judge Siofra O'Leary, the court's president, stressed that it would be up to governments to decide how to approach climate change obligations — and experts noted that was a limit of the ruling.

"The European Court of Human Rights stopped short of ordering the Swiss government to take any specific action, underscoring that relief from the Swiss government 'necessarily depends on democratic decision-making' to enact the laws necessary to impose such a remedy," said Richard Lazarus, a professor at Harvard Law School who specializes in environmental and natural resources law.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Swiss members of Senior Women for Climate gather after the European Court of Human Rights ruled Tuesday that its member nations have an obligation to protect their citizens from the ill effects of climate change.

CHINA

Xi welcomes Russian foreign minister in show of support

ASSOCIATED PRESS

BEIJING | Chinese President Xi Jinping met with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov Tuesday in a sign of mutual support and shared opposition to Western democracies amid Moscow's invasion of Ukraine.

The two made common cause in the high-profile visit over shared complaints that the U.S. and the West are trying to curb their growth and frustrate their efforts to transform the international order.

"We would like to express our highest appreciation and admiration for the successes that you have achieved over the years and, above all, over the last decade under your leadership," Mr. Lavrov told Mr. Xi, according to Russian media.

"We are sincerely pleased with these successes, since these are the successes of friends, although not everyone in the world shares this attitude and are trying in every possible way to restrain the development of China — in fact just like the development of Russia," Mr. Lavrov said.

Russia's growing economic and diplomatic isolation has made it increasingly reliant on China, its former rival for leadership of the Communist bloc during the Cold War. In past decades, the two have closely aligned their foreign policies, held joint military exercises and sought to rally non-aligned states in groupings such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. Mr. Xi and Russian President Vladimir Putin famously declared a "no-limits" alliance just before the Kremlin invaded neighboring Ukraine in early 2022.

Mr. Lavrov held a news conference earlier Tuesday with his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi at which they reaffirmed solidarity in international affairs, saying both oppose any international events that do not take Russia's position into account.

He said Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's "so-called peace formula" was "completely detached from any realities."

Mr. Zelenskyy has called for the withdrawal of Russian forces and the return of all occupied Ukrainian territory, but is heavily reliant on support from the U.S., where a major new military aid package proposed by President Biden has been stalled on Capitol Hill.

China and Russia are each other's most important diplomatic partners, both holding permanent seats on the United Nations Security Council, and and both are working together to counter U.S. priorities.

While China has not provided direct military support for Russia, it has backed it rhetorically in blaming the West for provoking Mr. Putin's decision to launch the Ukraine war and refrained from calling it an invasion in deference to the Kremlin. China has also said it isn't providing Russia with arms or military assistance, although it has maintained robust economic connections with Moscow, alongside India and other countries. amid sanctions from Washington and its allies.

At their joint news conference, Mr. Yi repeated China's calls for a cease-fire and "an end to the war soon."

BRIEFLY
THE WORLD

VENEZUELA

Former oil minister arrested, held on corruption charges

CARACAS | Venezuela's once powerful oil minister has been arrested on allegations of corruption, the government announced Tuesday.

The Ministry of Communications released images of Tareck El Aissami, who resigned his post last year, being handcuffed and walking down a hallway flanked by officers.

The oil minister resigned a few days before senior officials in the government of President Nicolas Maduro and business leaders were arrested in March 2023 as part of an investigation into corruption scheme involving international oil sales.

Mr. El Aissami disappeared from public life after last year's arrests, and his whereabouts were frequently the subject of questions and rumors.

Attorney General Tarek William Saab told reporters the arrest took time because of the various steps in the investigation. The top prosecutor tied the former minister to the alleged scheme that involved selling Venezuelan oil through the country's cryptocurrency oversight agency in parallel to the state-run Petroleos de Venezuela SA.

Mr. Saab last year said the oversight agency allegedly signed contracts for the loading of crude on ships "without any type of administrative control or guarantees," violating legal regulations. He said that once the oil was marketed, "the corresponding payments were not made" to the state oil company.

In announcing his resignation — seen as shocking as was portrayed as a loyal ruling party member and considered a key figure in the regime — Mr. El Aissami said he wanted to "fully support" the investigations.

— Associated Press

CHINA

Beijing's aggression leaves U.S. admiral 'very concerned'

MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA | The admiral who heads the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command said on Tuesday that he was "very, very concerned" about China's aggression toward Philippine forces near disputed islands in the South China Sea.

The Chinese coast guard has repeatedly clashed with Philippine patrol vessels near the Philippine-occupied Second Thomas Shoal. Last month, several Filipino seamen were injured when a Chinese vessel sideswiped a smaller Philippine vessel and another two Chinese coast guard ships used high-pressure water spray to shatter the Philippine vessel's windscreen.

Asked if the submerged reef in the Spratly Islands was the most dangerous flash point in his area of command, U.S. Adm. John Aquilino told a forum at the Lowy Institute, a Sydney-based international policy think tank: "I'm very concerned about what's happening at the Second Thomas Shoal."

"I'm very, very concerned about the direction it's going," Adm. Aquilino said. "These actions are dangerous, illegal, and they are destabilizing the region."

"What's next, and how far are they willing to go in that area?" Adm. Aquilino added.

— Associated Press

BRITAIN

'God particle' physicist Higgs dies at age 94

LONDON | Nobel Prize-winning physicist Peter Higgs, who proposed the existence of the so-called God particle that helped explain how matter formed after the Big Bang, has died at age 94, the University of Edinburgh said Tuesday.

The Scottish university, where Mr. Higgs was emeritus professor, said he died Monday "peacefully at home following a short illness."

Mr. Higgs predicted the existence of a new particle — the so-called Higgs boson — in 1964. But it would be almost 50 years before the particle's existence could be confirmed at the Large Hadron Collider.

Mr. Higgs' theory related to how subatomic particles that are the building blocks of matter get their mass. This theoretical understanding is a central part of the so-called Standard Model, which describes the physics of how the world is constructed.

— Associated Press

Region

MARYLAND

Third channel at Baltimore port will open this month

Bill would have federal government pay for new bridge

By Brian Witte
ASSOCIATED PRESS

ANNAPOLIS | A third channel will open this month at Baltimore's port after the Francis Scott Key Bridge collapse two weeks ago, and Maryland's congressional delegation will sponsor legislation seeking federal aid to pay 100% of the cost of a new bridge, Sen. Benjamin Cardin said Tuesday.

Mr. Cardin gave the update after meeting with the state congressional delegation and Maryland Gov. Wes Moore on Capitol Hill in Washington.

"We now have two alternative channels that are open. We have a third channel that'll be open this month that will deal with the majority of traffic into the port of Baltimore. And by the end of May we hope to have the entire channel reopened," Mr. Cardin said.

The bridge collapsed March 26 after being struck by the cargo ship Dali, which lost power shortly after setting sail, and the wreckage has blocked the port's main shipping channel.

Mr. Cardin also said he will lead an effort to introduce legislation clarifying that federal funds will be used to pay the full cost of replacing the bridge. He noted that the federal government covered 100% of rebuilding the Interstate 35W bridge in Minnesota after it collapsed into the Mississippi River in 2007.

"The legislation that we're going to be offering will be to do what has done in previous disasters to make it clear that it's 100% federal cost in regards to the moneys that have already been allocated," he said.

The Democratic lawmaker added that he has been encouraged by conversations he's had with Republicans, who he said "have been very open to this legislation."

Rep. Andy Harris, Maryland's lone Republican member of Congress, appeared with the other lawmakers to join them in expressing support, saying that "tragedy knows no partisanship."

"This wasn't a Republican tragedy. It wasn't a Democrat tragedy. And the solution won't be a partisan solution," Mr. Harris said. "It'll be a bipartisan solution."

Mr. Cardin said any funds recovered from liable third parties or their insurance "will go to relieve the federal taxpayers," but that won't hold up work to replace the bridge.

It remains unclear how much that cost will be, and it will depend in large part on the design, Mr. Cardin said.

"There's been a 3,000% increase since 1975, when this bridge was constructed, in regards to the amount of traffic cargo that goes through the channel itself, so it needs to meet the current needs," he said.

Authorities believe six workers — immigrants from Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador — plunged to their deaths in the Patapsco River when the bridge collapsed. Two others survived. Three bodies have been recovered, but the search for the others continues.

Mr. Moore said the state remains focused on supporting the families of the six workers and bringing them closure. After the meeting in Washington, he returned to the state capital to sign legislation helping port employees affected by the bridge collapse.

The legislation immediately authorizes use of the state's rainy day fund and lets the governor use state reserves to help some small businesses avoid laying people off and to encourage companies that relocate to other ports to return to Baltimore when it reopens.

MARYLAND

State lawmakers approve key legislation

Port workers' aid, judges' protection passed before session ends

By Brian Witte
ASSOCIATED PRESS



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Maryland Gov. Wes Moore's $63 billion budget proposal for the next fiscal year was kept mostly intact by state lawmakers, with additional tax and fee increases to raise money for transportation.

ANNAPOLIS | The Maryland General Assembly ended its 90-day legislative session on Monday. Here's a look at some of the legislation lawmakers passed:

Budget

Maryland lawmakers mostly kept Gov. Wes Moore's $63 billion budget proposal for the next fiscal year intact. They decided to add on some tax and fee increases to raise money for transportation, including a new fee of 75 cents on ride-hailing services and an increase in vehicle registration fees. The new revenues for transportation add up to about $252 million in the next fiscal year, gradually increasing to $336 million in fiscal year 2029. Tobacco tax increases will help generate about $91 million for K-12 education, though that is projected to decline in future years with less tobacco use.

Port workers

Lawmakers passed legislation to help Port of Baltimore employees who are out of work because of the Francis Scott Key Bridge collapse and aren't covered under unemployment insurance while the port is closed or partially closed. The bill authorizes use of the state's rainy day fund to help them and encourage companies that relocate to other ports to return to Baltimore when it reopens.

Court protection

Maryland judges would be able to shield their personal information online to prevent hostile people from tracking them down, a measure approved in response to the fatal shooting of a judge in his driveway last year.

Abortion clinics security

Lawmakers approved a measure to create a grant program in the state's health department to help abortion clinics pay for security improvements.

Juvenile justice

Lawmakers approved a package of juvenile justice reforms aimed at improving accountability and rehabilitation in response to complaints about increasing crimes like auto theft and handgun violations in parts of the state.

Data centers

Lawmakers passed the governor's bill to make data center development easier by reducing environmental procedures required by state regulators for backup generators needed for the centers, which house information technology infrastructure.

Affordable housing

Lawmakers greenlighted the governor's legislation to increase the state's housing supply by incentivizing construction and removing barriers to development.

Pimlico rebuild

A plan to rebuild Baltimore's storied but antiquated Pimlico Race Course and transfer the track to state control was approved. The plan calls for using $400 million in state bonds to rebuild the home of the second jewel of horse racing's Triple Crown, the Preakness Stakes.

Firearms civil liability

Lawmakers voted to create standards that the firearm industry must follow to prevent harm in the state, or else face liability for contributing to a public nuisance. The measure would require a member of the firearms industry to "establish and implement certain reasonable controls regarding the sale, manufacture, importation, distribution, marketing, possession and use of certain firearm-related products."

Artificial intelligence

Lawmakers approved a measure that aims to prepare Maryland for the rising use of artificial intelligence. It requires the Maryland Department of Information Technology to develop AI policies, mandate AI inventories and codify the governor's executive order on AI, designed to ensure that AI technology is used responsibly.

Online privacy

Lawmakers voted for a measure that limits companies' data collection to give consumers data privacy and security protections. Another measure, called the Maryland Kids Code, puts safeguards in place to restrict data that technology companies can gather on children.

Gender-transition

Gender-transition treatment in Maryland would be protected from criminal and civil actions brought by other states.

Immigrant insurance

Maryland would apply for a federal waiver to enable people to buy health insurance through the state's health care exchange, regardless of their immigration status.

988 crisis line

The state would create a permanent funding source for the state's 988 mental health crisis helpline by adding a fee of 25 cents to cellphone bills.

Election workers

The General Assembly passed the governor's proposal to enable authorities to prosecute people who threaten to harm election officials or their immediate family members, as threats are on the rise across the country.

VIRGINIA

Youngkin proposes compromise path on two-year budget

Governor calls for status quo on taxes

By Sarah Rankin
ASSOCIATED PRESS



ASSOCIATED PRESS

"To be clear, we do not need new taxes," Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin said of budget additions, adding "... we won't aim to reduce them this time."

RICHMOND | Gov. Glenn Youngkin and the Democratic lawmakers who control the Virginia General Assembly have spent months at odds over taxes.

The way to find compromise and get a new two-year budget done on time, the Republican governor said Monday, is to set aside talk of cuts or increases for now and simply stick with the tax policy status quo.

In a speech in Richmond, Mr. Youngkin outlined a lengthy package of amendments to the budget the General Assembly sent him in March, including a proposal to eliminate a new lawmaker-backed sales tax on digital goods and services.

He also laid out corresponding cuts to expenditures to account for the revenue lost from that change, though he said his proposal maintained the vast majority of lawmakers' priorities, including 3% raises for public workers in each of the next two years.

"To be clear, we do not need new taxes. And again, for the sake of finding common ground, we won't aim to reduce them this time," said Mr. Youngkin, who had initially voiced support for the digital sales tax but paired it with a corresponding income tax cut for an overall reduction.

He cast his proposals as an olive branch, calling the latest iteration of the spending plan the "common ground budget." His remarks marked a departure from the hyperpartisan rhetoric of the last few weeks when lawmakers and Mr. Youngkin were trading barbs over their budget differences and the failure of one of his top legislative priorities, a proposed pro-sports arena in northern Virginia.

The governor emphasized that he had not used his line-item veto power on the budget and said he hoped the more than 230 amendments he offered would be well received when lawmakers convene to consider them next week in Richmond. But at least one top Democrat quickly voiced skepticism.

Senate Majority Leader Scott Surovell told reporters in a video call after Mr. Youngkin's speech that lawmakers would be closely scrutinizing the governor's amendments to ensure that the budget remained structurally balanced and that the amendments "provide the level of services that Virginians expect, given the level of wealth and income and expectations of our citizens."

Delegate Luke Torian, who chairs the budget-writing committee of the House of Delegates, said he'd not had time to review Mr. Youngkin's presentation.

State Sen. L. Louise Lucas, Mr. Torian's counterpart in the upper chamber, criticized Mr. Youngkin on social media, calling it "unimaginable" that the governor would ask Democrats to work with him, given the record number of vetoes he's been issuing.

The state operates on a two-year budget cycle, with the spending plan initially adopted in even-numbered years. Lawmakers and Mr. Youngkin are working to come to terms on a framework that would begin with the start of the new fiscal year on July 1 and run through mid-2026.

The public process formally kicked off in December, when Mr. Youngkin unveiled his budget proposal, which offered a starting point for negotiations. In it, the governor called for a reduction to income tax rates paired with an increase to the sales tax rate and an expansion of the sales tax to cover certain currently exempted digital goods, such as streaming services.

The General Assembly, which convened in January, objected to Mr. Youngkin's proposal broadly, saying it would mostly benefit the wealthy.

But as they rewrote the governor's plan, they did keep one piece of the tax policy: the proposed new levy on digital goods, which they also expanded to cover business-to-business transactions. That move drew a backlash from influential industry groups and one of them — the Northern Virginia Technology Council — issued a statement Monday praising Mr. Youngkin's call to drop the tax.

The Youngkin administration said Virginia is in such a strong financial position, with a AAA bond rating, flush reserve fund balances and tax collections running ahead of forecasts, that increased spending on government services and priorities like teacher raises can be maintained without the tax increase.

DISTRICT

Teen accused in fatal shooting at Brookland Metro

By Matt Delaney
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

A teenage boy was charged with murder Tuesday after D.C. police accused him of gunning down a 14-year-old boy at the Brookland Metro Station last week.

Metropolitan Police Chief Pamela Smith said the 17-year-old suspect was taken into custody Tuesday morning. He will be tried as a juvenile in the April 4 slaying of Avion Evans.

"We are happy to have the suspect off the streets and now we need our juvenile justice system, or our criminal justice system, to hold him accountable," Chief Smith said.

Avion was killed around 4 p.m. last Thursday, when a gunman opened fire on a group of teens who were brawling on the station platform, police said.

Police said Avion was involved in the melee, but the shooting suspect was not.

The chief credited investigators at the police department's new Real-Time Crime Center for combing through surveillance footage and broadcasting images of the suspect just minutes after shots rang out.

The crime center is a 24/7 camera surveillance hub located in D.C. police headquarters that gives officers access to hundreds of commercial, residential and transit cameras around the city.

Chief Smith and Mayor Muriel Bowser cut the ribbon for the new center Monday, though it has been running since February.

The suspect could be tried as an adult since he is 17 years old. The U.S. Attorney's Office, the federal prosecutors who handle most major crimes in the city, would take over the case if the boy is moved up to adult court.

If he is convicted as a juvenile, he could only remain in D.C. custody until he is 21.

Google

The U.S. Department of Defense and Google are securing American digital defense systems

Cyberattacks today are one of the top threats to national security. That's why Google is helping the Department of Defense to secure America's digital defense systems. From establishing cloud-based zero-trust solutions that keep hackers and bad actors out to deploying the latest AI technology to thwart attacks, Google is helping to ensure that our nation's digital defenses remain secure.

Explore how Google is keeping more Americans safe online than anyone else at safety.google/cybersecurity

Safer with Google

Editorial: FISA farce returns / B2

LEGAL ADS INSIDE B5

COMMENTARY

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 2024 The Washington Times ☆ SECTION B

The lessons of 1979

After 45 years, the Taiwan Relations Act is no longer enough

By Mike Pompeo and Miles Yu

The Taiwan Relations Act, enacted 45 years ago, is a pivotal moment in the complex tapestry of international relations, particularly between the United States, Taiwan and China.

This legislation emerged from a bipartisan rebuke of President Jimmy Carter's rapid move to sever official ties with Taiwan in favor of recognizing China. It was a legislative effort to preserve some semblance of diplomatic engagement and support for Taiwan, reflecting deep concerns about the executive branch's unilateral decisions in foreign policy, particularly those influenced by the exigencies of political survival and perceived strategic advantages.

It's time to unpack the multifaceted implications of the Taiwan Relations Act,, the lessons learned from its historical context, and the enduring challenges it presents in the current geopolitical climate.

Historical context and immediate implications are as rich as the Act's wisdom and legal craftsmanship.

The Taiwan Relations Act was a direct response to the Carter administration's decision to recognize Beijing as the sole legitimate government of China, effectively sidelining Taiwan, a long-standing ally and strategic partner.

The act served as a critical legislative check on the executive's foreign policy prerogatives, ensuring that any changes in the policy toward Taiwan would require congressional input. It provided Taiwan with a protected legal status within U.S. domestic jurisdiction, ensured military support for its self-defense, and opposed any non-peaceful means to alter Taiwan's status. Essentially, it codified the U.S. commitment to Taiwan's security and legal protection in the U.S. in the absence of formal diplomatic recognition.

The enactment of the Taiwan Relations Act and the circumstances leading up to it reveal several crucial lessons about U.S. foreign policy and its engagement with China.

First, it highlights the folly of "playing the China card" without fully appreciating the strategic long game of the Chinese Communist Party. The U.S.'s initial engagement with Beijing was driven by a desire to outmaneuver the Soviet Union without adequately considering the Chinese Communist Party's ambitions and its view of the U.S. as a perennial adversary.

In the end, China outmaneuvered the United States in the great strategic game, and the Communist Party's leaders have proved far more adroit and effective practitioners of playing the America card.

Second, the U.S. demonstrated a remarkable naivete regarding the Chinese government's internal dynamics and strategic intentions. The American misreading of Chinese leaders' intentions and the lack of understanding of the Communist Party's operational logic at a time of a fierce power struggle engineered by Deng Xiaoping against his internal political rivals underscored a significant flaw in U.S. diplomatic strategy, which often mistook tactical maneuvers for major policy shifts and strategic wiles.



ILLUSTRATION BY **LINAS GARSYS**

Third, the period marked a crisis of confidence in American political and institutional greatness, exacerbated by internal scandals and policy failures. This crisis influenced the U.S. approach to international relations, leading to a reduction in its global leadership role, a misjudgment of Taiwan's strategic importance, and a gross overestimate of China's strategic and economic indispensability for the U.S., as vigorously promoted by generations of Chinese Communist Party lobbyists in the upper echelons of American society.

Fourth, the U.S. underestimated the leverage and moral authority it held as a beacon of freedom and democracy, particularly in relation to China's need for legitimacy and fear of internal dissent. This misapprehension led to missed opportunities to leverage American influence and inspirational power over the freedom-loving and repressed Chinese people in negotiations with China.

Finally, the U.S. failed to recognize China's negotiation strategy, often acquiescing to unreasonable demands of faint outrage from China's ruling party because of a misperception of China's strategic position and intentions.

It has become imperative to reevaluate the Taiwan Relations Act in contemporary geopolitics.

While the Taiwan Relations Act has served as a bulwark against precipitous shifts in U.S.-Taiwan relations, the geopolitical landscape has evolved significantly. The rise of China as a global power, its military modernization, assertive foreign policy posture, and above all, Taiwan's remarkable transition to a democratic nation present new challenges.

The Taiwan Relations Act, though foundational, may no longer be sufficient to address the complexities of U.S.-China-Taiwan relations, not least of which is Taiwan's development into a mature and sovereign nation eager for America's help in recognizing its rightful place in the international community.

The U.S. must reassess its strategy toward Taiwan and China, taking into account the lessons of 1979, to ensure that past misjudgments do not bind it but are instead guided by a clear-eyed understanding of the current strategic environment, and most importantly, by upholding America's upright moral obligations to recognize Taiwan diplomatically as a free and independent nation of a proud people with a new birth of sovereignty and nationhood since the enactment of the Taiwan Relations Act 45 years ago.

Mike Pompeo served as the 70th secretary of state. Miles Yu served as his China policy and planning adviser. Both are fellows at the Hudson Institute.

Democrats helping cartels up and down human pipeline

Nobody crosses without paying

By Rowan Scarborough

President Biden and his Democrats have done so much for the murderous Mexican cartels.

And it promises to be the gift that keeps giving as masses of immigrants cross the border illegally owing money to the rapacious drug pushers turned brutal human smugglers.

Some blue cities and states are providing benefits to aliens that promise to indirectly fund the cartels, which raked in $13 billion in human trafficking fees in 2021. At that rate, the total take by now would be $40 billion.

It is Mr. Biden's crazy and irresponsible strategy to rely on the cartels that control the Mexican side of the southern border to send us anyone they want. Our Border Patrol dutifully processes the invasion. It's 10 million illegals at this point, including gang members, drug dealers, and child sex and slave traffickers.

It's the Democrats' cynical plan — public safety be damned. Take the migrants who survived cartel brutality, drownings and vehicle smothering and inject them into the election voting pipeline as soon as possible.

The Biden financial gift helps cartels produce more deadly fentanyl and heroin and export more operations into the U.S. It's a deadly gambit for Americans and migrants. Border Patrol agents have told Congress that cartel bosses unleash threats, beatings, rapes and murders if migrants dare to leave their routes to escape payment.

"The other day, we had two people wash up to our shores, and they had no identification on them, but we're thinking they were migrants that went down there without permission," Chief Patrol Agent Joel Martinez of the Laredo, Texas, section told the House Homeland Security Committee. "One of them had his head halfway blown off, and the other one was shot between the eyes."

With a smuggling monopoly, the cartels typically charge an alien $8,000 to $12,000.

The subplot is that those without sufficient upfront cash are sternly impressed with the obligation to pay the full amount once in the United States. Cartel thugs have a good record of collecting. A migrant thief in New York City said he stole because he needed to repay his handlers. Migrants are affixed with wristbands complete with client numbers. They tell the checkpoint bosses what they paid and what they owe.



ILLUSTRATION BY **HUNTER**

"Many migrants make only a down payment up front of about $500, and agree to work off the rest when they get to their destination," said Jessica M. Vaughan, policy studies director at the Center for Immigration Studies.

In an online analysis, Ms. Vaughan said some families pay by lending a child to another migrant, which guarantees that person, as a supposed parent, immediate release inside the U.S.

"The remainder is typically paid through debt bondage accomplished by wage garnishment, fees for housing and food, and other forms of exploitation and outright threats and extortion," Ms. Vaughan said.

House committee staff asked Chief Patrol Agent Gloria Chavez of Texas' Rio Grande Valley if aliens arrive here in debt. She said: "I have heard from different debriefs from our intelligence agents that many of the migrants that do hire human smugglers at times haven't even paid their debt yet until they find a job in the United States to pay that debt. I have heard that from different briefs."

Democrats' benefit programs promise to help the flow of cash to cartels from inside our country.

New York City on March 25 began handing out prepaid debit cards to migrants in a program pegged to cost, at first, $53 million, the New York Post reported.

California has a buffet of benefits for illegal immigrants, including cash assistance for older adults, storm recovery payments and free medical care.

California has lost a net 400,000 residents since 2019. Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom is inducing illegal immigrants, no matter who they are, to settle in his state so as not to lose a congressional seat through the U.S. Census.

A Democratic-controlled Minnesota House panel approved a bill to create automatic cash payments to everyone, including illegal immigrants.

The Center for Immigration Studies said in December that 59% of households headed by illegal immigrants tap into the country's $900 billion federal welfare pot. This CIS estimate is based on the Census Bureau's Survey of Income and Program Participation.

Another CIS study concluded that the annual taxpayer cost of taking care of millions of illegal immigrants will reach $451 billion.

That number was incorporated into a report from the House Homeland Security Committee majority Republicans.

"Illegal immigration has a profound impact on programs intended to provide financial aid or services exclusively for low-income Americans," a committee report stated. "Although most illegal aliens are ineligible for these taxpayer-funded benefits, many still receive them."

The point is, a portion of this welfare comes in cash payments that will surely find their way back to the drug cartels.

"Now nobody crosses without paying the cartels," testified Chief Patrol Agent John Modlin of the Tucson, Arizona, sector. "So the cartels determine when people cross, how many people cross at a time, all of that. It's all controlled by them."

The smuggling fees are not always calculated in money.

"It's very common that female migrants are raped during the process," testified San Diego Chief Patrol Agent Aaron Heitke. "It's also very difficult to be able to get them to talk. Most of them believe it's just part of the payment as they go up. It's unfortunately very regular within the population."

Providing benefits that help migrants pay off the cartels is probably not the worst thing Democrats could do to degrade our cities.

The trifecta of "sanctuary cities" to protect alien criminals, defunding the police and lax prosecution created nightmares for stores, subway riders, homeowners, pedestrians and the police themselves, who, unfortunately, work for people who hate them.

Rowan Scarborough is a columnist with The Washington Times.



Lessons learned from fiscal rules in other countries

U.S. could use a Swiss-style 'debt brake'

By Barry W. Poulson

Recently, the Senate unanimously passed a resolution from Sen. Mike Braun that "commits to preventing the looming fiscal crisis in the United States."

Mr. Braun, Indiana Republican, points to a dangerous landmark in federal spending. This year, federal spending on interest to service the national debt is projected to exceed spending on national defense. More than $1 trillion in U.S. debt is now held by the Chinese. The increased burden of interest payments is crowding out other federal programs, including defense spending.

In 2011, Michael Mullen, former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, warned, "I believe the single biggest threat to our national security is debt."

Mr. Braun's resolution calls for much-needed reforms in the budget process. Given that the Senate rarely passes anything unanimously, this is a remarkable achievement. But before we break out the bubbly, we must ask what the resolution accomplishes.

The unsustainable growth in federal debt reflects a fatal flaw in our fiscal

» see **POULSON** | B4

COMMENT & ANALYSIS

FISA farce returns

House set to renew feds' unlimited snooping authority

Congress is once again considering the wisdom of allowing government officials to spy on citizens without a warrant. Authorization of Section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act expires next week, and House Speaker Mike Johnson, Louisiana Republican, appears to be fast-tracking renewal over the objection of conservatives — and a few liberals.

The annual dispute highlights a divide that doesn't line up neatly with the usual partisan categories. Boosters of the national security establishment and military-industrial complex are eager to get the FISA renewal done so they can move on to sending an added $60 billion in taxpayer dollars to Ukraine, on top of the $74 billion already dispatched.

Against this crowd, all but two House Judiciary Committee members voted in December to recommend the full House adopt the End Warrantless Surveillance Act. This includes the panel's chairman, GOP Rep. Jim Jordan of Ohio, and the top Democrat, Rep. Jerrold Nadler of New York.

Their modest proposal shouldn't be controversial; it prohibits federal agents from sidestepping the Constitution by buying private data about Americans from third parties. It would also tell G-men they need to get a warrant based on probable cause before querying the National Security Agency's vast surveillance database and perusing the communications of a "United States person."

Queries of this sort aren't rare. The FBI conducted 1.3 million searches on Americans in 2020, rising to 3.4 million the following year, according to the Office of the Director of National Intelligence.

If what's happening is legitimate, a warrant isn't a high bar given the willingness of Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court judges to rubber-stamp whatever a government representative brings to their attention. This compliant court did nothing to sanction the FBI or its agents after they deceived the court, falsifying information to unjustly label Carter Page an "agent of a foreign power."

Mr. Page was a campaign volunteer for Donald Trump at the time, but partisan FBI executives leaked the existence of a surveillance warrant to the media to spread the fiction that Mr. Trump was under Russian influence. This lie, orchestrated by the Hillary Clinton campaign, took on new life when partisan actors abused the awesome powers of the national security establishment to make it appear true.

Never forget that 50 senior intelligence officials — including five former CIA directors — signed a duplicitous letter saying that the Hunter Biden laptop was Russian disinformation in an effort to salvage Joe Biden's 2020 campaign. This demonstrates the willingness of those in charge of the national security establishment to wield their titles and tradecraft to achieve personal ends.

Such vicious actors ought not to be rewarded with blanket renewal of wiretapping powers. Mr. Johnson is reportedly mulling options like passing a clean extension and bringing up the House Judiciary Committee's reforms as a free-standing measure. While presented as a compromise, this would be an empty gesture, as true reform wouldn't get past either the Senate or the president's veto pen.

Given the pattern of abuse, the nation would be better served by allowing FISA Section 702 authority to expire in the hope that a new administration will take a fresh look at the issue next year.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Instead of U.S. leadership, a vacuum

The real story of "Inside the debate over Western boots on the ground in Ukraine" (web, April 8) is the rushing of French President Emmanuel Macron to fill the vacuum in Western leadership left by the weakness of President Biden.

When Donald Trump was president, no one ever doubted that the United States led the free world. Russia would never have invaded Ukraine and Hamas would never have attacked Israel. They feared Mr. Trump and never knew what he would do. But they knew what Mr. Biden would do: nothing. Consequently, they don't fear him or the free world.

ROBERT H. KAMMER
Silver Spring, Maryland

Abortion is a state issue

The issue of abortion is like staring at a solar eclipse without protective glasses: blinding. A significant number of both "pro-choice" and "pro-life" voters are simply unable to see beyond it.

I am strongly against abortion, but I am also realistic. In order to have a positive impact on the issue and all other critical issues of our time, we need like-minded decision-makers in office — specifically, in the presidency. Donald Trump is the man who finally got Roe v. Wade overturned. The legal result of reversing that decision is to return to the states the responsibility of making abortion policy. That's called states' rights. Now abortion policy is determined by the people of each state, through their elected officials.

Pro-lifers and pro-choicers alike can now lobby their elected officials and fellow state residents to determine that state's position on abortion. Politically and legally, that is the correct way to address abortion and the way our president should address that issue, regardless of his/her personal position on abortion. And that's exactly what Mr. Trump — who is personally pro-life — announced this week.

Both sides should be celebrating his position, which is to keep the federal government out of the process and let the voters of each state determine that state's laws on abortion. This is known as a win-win.

Now let's get Mr. Trump elected again.

BOB SEGAL
Burke, Virginia

No excuse for infanticide

I am glad to see that Pope Francis is taking a stand against some of the 'wedge' issues in our body politic today with his recent doctrine of "infinite dignity" ("Vatican says 'gender theory,' surrogacy, euthanasia among violations of human dignity," web, April 8).

However, still in the room is the 20-ton dinosaur called legalized abortion (under any and all conditions) and women's reproductive rights (and wrongs) — and it is eating way too many of our kids. In my opinion, it is treason in addition to being plain old garden-variety savage and monstrous.

Based upon what I have read in the Christian Bible, no nation, empire, or group of nations that practices infanticide for any purpose has ever survived or escaped disaster and annihilation.

DAN WHITTMAN
Tempe, Arizona

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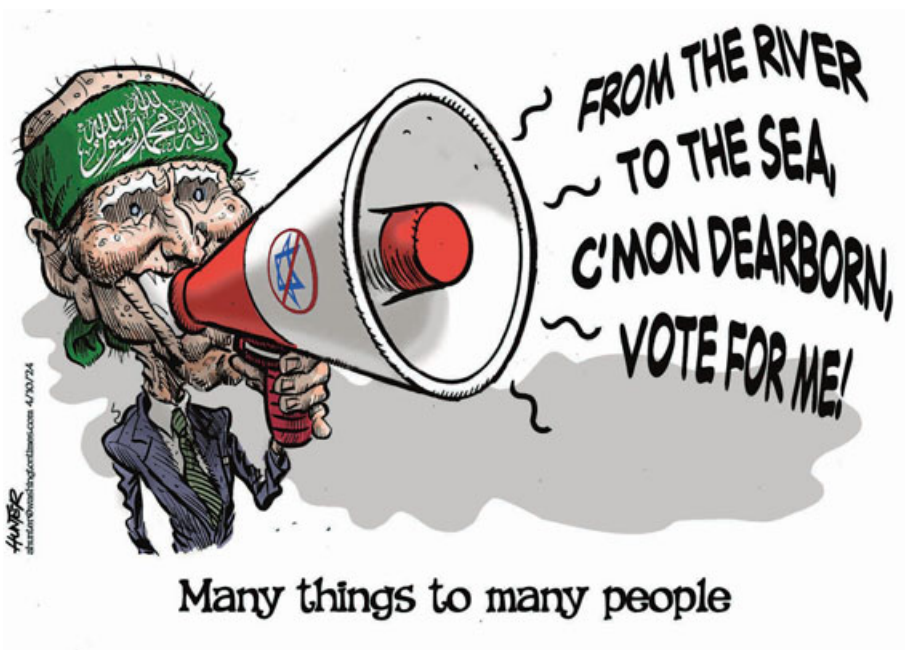

Threat from Beijing is growing at our southern border

Unprecedented 22,000 Chinese have attempted to enter illegally since October

By Matthew Tragesser

Many Americans think of the surge in southern border crossings and the threat from China as two completely different issues. They shouldn't.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection recently revealed that at least 22,000 Chinese nationals have attempted to cross our southern border unlawfully since Oct. 1. Illegal immigration by the Chinese via the U.S.-Mexico border is soaring because of the Biden administration's lax policies.

The number of Chinese nationals encountered at our southern border since last October is unprecedented. Data reveals that immigration authorities typically encounter between a few hundred and approximately 2,500 Chinese nationals at our southern border in a fiscal year.

The approximately 22,000 witnessed in just over five months is still more than in all four fiscal years under the Trump administration combined.

President Biden has made it easy for illegal aliens of any nationality to unlawfully enter our country without penalty. Early on in his presidency, he signed executive orders to reverse virtually every Trump administration border security measure.

This includes terminating the "Remain in Mexico" policy — which required illegal aliens to remain in Mexico during their asylum process — halting border wall construction and shielding many classes of illegal aliens from deportation.



ILLUSTRATION BY HUNTER

This has made it easy for Chinese nationals to enter our country unlawfully and even easier for them to remain here.

Chinese entities are also exploiting the Biden administration's porous southern border by working with Mexican cartels to transport and sell fentanyl in the United States. Fentanyl, one of the deadliest drugs in the world, primarily enters our country through the southern border. It is the leading cause of death of Americans 18 to 45. Ingesting a crumb of it can cause death in minutes.

China is the principal fentanyl manufacturer on the planet. Its chemical and pharmaceutical companies provide precursor chemicals necessary for fentanyl creation. These chemicals are sold and shipped to Mexican cartels, which then create large batches of the drug in Mexico.

Under the current administration, the Mexican cartels have no problem getting this deadly drug through our southern border. The border wall remains reconstructed, and Border Patrol agents are pulled from the front lines to process illegal aliens at holding facilities. There are not enough border security measures in place to detect and halt these drugs from coming into the country.

Beyond illegal border crossings, China is the "broadest, most active and persistent" cyber espionage threat to the U.S., according to the intelligence community's 2023 worldwide threats report. China conducts massive espionage campaigns against U.S. infrastructure, defense, government, telecommunications and technology targets. It encourages intellectual property theft through its Military-Civil Fusion policy, and its spy balloons have penetrated U.S. airspace.

The Biden administration must take the threat of illegal Chinese crossings at the southern border more seriously. It must reinstate Trump administration border initiatives that created the most secure border in American history. Continued inaction from the Biden administration will only further jeopardize U.S. national security.

Matthew Tragesser, former communications director for Rep. Andy Biggs, Arizona Republican, is a senior communications manager at The Heritage Foundation.

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Wavering Biden

President sends a message to America's enemies and allies

By Clifford D. May

Foreign Desk

"Today, the people of Israel are under attack, orchestrated by a terrorist organization, Hamas." So said President Biden six months ago Sunday.

He went on to speak of the "innocent people murdered, wounded, entire families taken hostage by Hamas."

He made clear that "the United States stands with Israel. We will not ever fail to have their back. ... My administration's support for Israel's security is rock solid and unwavering."

So, when did the rock start to crumble, and the wavering begin?

I'd say last month when Mr. Biden allowed a U.N. Security Council resolution backed by Russia, China and 22 Arab states to pass.

The resolution didn't demand that Hamas release its hostages — including six Americans — as a precondition for "a lasting sustainable ceasefire."

The message didn't condemn Hamas. It didn't even mention Hamas.

Hamas welcomed the resolution and continued holding — and likely torturing — its hostages while killing more Israelis whenever possible.

Israel, however, has since come under mounting pressure to cease firing, which would help Hamas escalate the war it's waging in alliance with Hezbollah in Lebanon, Shia militias in Syria and Iraq, and the Houthi rebels in Yemen — terrorists all and all guided and funded by Iran's rulers, whose dedication to "Death to Israel!" and "Death to America!" has never wavered.

And then, last week, the Israel Defense Forces struck a World Central Kitchen convoy, killing seven aid workers.

Israelis acknowledged and regretted what they called "a grave mistake." An investigation quickly revealed that the attack was based on flawed intelligence and "carried out in serious violation of the commands and IDF Standard Operating Procedures." Two senior IDF officers were fired.

Going forward, the IDF said, it would brand aid vehicles with special stickers that are visible at night to thermal cameras. Aid for residents of the Gaza Strip would be increased.



ILLUSTRATION BY HUNTER

"This is how a moral army in a democracy operates," wrote John Spencer, the chair of urban warfare studies at the U.S. Military Academy.

It was not, I would remind you, how Mr. Biden operated when, after he capitulated to the Taliban in 2021, U.S. forces mistook an aid worker for an ISIS-K terrorist and ended up killing a family of 10, including seven children. It was weeks before the tragic error was even acknowledged.

Nevertheless, according to a White House statement, Mr. Biden on Thursday told Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu that "the strikes on humanitarian workers and the overall humanitarian situation are unacceptable" and that "U.S. policy with respect to Gaza will be determined by our assessment of Israel's immediate action on these steps."

Mr. Biden also "underscored that an immediate ceasefire is essential to stabilize and improve the humanitarian situation and protect innocent civilians, and he urged the prime minister to empower his negotiators to conclude a deal without delay to bring the hostages home."

Among the most recent deals, Israelis offered Hamas a six-week cease-fire plus the release of 40 terrorists for every hostage unchained. Hamas rejected it.

Hamas is demanding that all Israeli troops withdraw permanently and that all convicted terrorists be released in exchange for surviving hostages — how many, Hamas has not disclosed.

It should go without saying — but usually doesn't — that all the blood spilled since Hamas broke the cease-fire that was in place on Oct. 6 is on Hamas' hands. The people of Gaza need emergency aid now only because Hamas started a war. And if Hamas would release its hostages and lay down its arms, the suffering in Gaza would ease quickly.

You should remember that Israelis left Gaza in 2005. Two years later, Hamas fought and defeated Fatah, its rival, and the main faction in the Palestinian Authority. That was fine with the "donor community" that has been providing the Palestinians in Gaza with health care, education, and other social services primarily through the U.N., which never demanded that Hamas hold elections or in any other way make Gaza free from the Israeli border to the sea.

On the contrary, the U.N. saw Hamas oppression, terrorism and thievery and said not a word.

Hamas was, therefore, able to focus on its primary mission: preparing for a war meant to lead to Israel's annihilation and the extermination of Israelis.

Hamas violates the laws of armed conflict with impunity. Its troops blend in with civilians and use civilians as human shields, not least in hospitals that double as command centers.

For Hamas, dead civilians are not a tragedy, but a key element of its strategy.

Hamas terrorists have killed people in Gaza who were distributing aid that Hamas prefers to steal. Why isn't Mr. Biden outraged about that?

As Israelis attempt to defeat Hamas, they also understand they have enemies elsewhere plotting against them. On April 1, smart weapons fired from an F-35 fighter aircraft struck a building in Damascus, killing Mohammad Reza Zahedi, Iran's top Quds Force commander in Syria and Lebanon, along with six of his deputies.

The Quds Force is "one of the Iranian regime's primary organizations responsible for conducting covert lethal activities outside of Iran, including asymmetric and terrorist operations," according to the U.S. National Counterterrorism Center.

According to Iranian media, Zahedi played a "strategic role" in the "design and implementation" of the Oct. 7 Hamas attack.

The Biden administration could have called the F-35 attack — using Pentagon terminology — a "righteous strike." Or it could have said nothing.

Instead, a spokesman for Mr. Biden told reporters that the U.S. had neither "involvement" nor advance knowledge of the Israeli action and, what's more, "has communicated that directly to Iran."

This was beyond wavering. It was an unambiguous message from the American president to America's enemies: You have no reason to fear me.

And it was an equally unambiguous message to America's allies: You do.

Clifford D. May is founder and president of the Foundation for Defense of Democracies (FDD) and a columnist for The Washington Times.

Bearing false witness

Journalists increasingly fail to obey the Ninth Commandment

By Gerard Leval

The Ten Commandments are an anchor for the values of Judeo-Christian Western civilization. Consisting of just 10 relatively short statements, the Ten Commandments present the fundamental components for a stable and just society. They focus on faith, respect, decent behavior and, very importantly, honesty.

Half of the commandments are affirmative. They call upon us to acknowledge a single incorporeal deity. They direct us to honor that deity and inform us how to do so. They also emphasize the respect that we need to give to our parents, partners with God in the creation process.

Virtually everyone is familiar with some of the five negative commandments, the ones that direct us not to steal and not to kill. Fewer are as aware, however, of the Ninth Commandment, which instructs us to "not bear false witness against our neighbor."

The traditional interpretation of this commandment suggests that it refers to the role of a person engaged in testifying in a criminal or civil court proceeding. In that context, an individual's testimony can obviously have the gravest of consequences. By giving testimony before a judge or jury, a person can deprive another of liberty or even life. If an important witness's testimony is false, then terrible injustice can result.

Therefore, the biblical author appropriately emphasizes the injunction to each of us to refrain from being untruthful witnesses.

But the intent of the Ninth Commandment goes far beyond the testimony of witnesses in a courtroom. In some measure, we all provide testimony in the course of normal interaction. We are frequently called upon to speak about people or events, and when we do so, we can affect many lives. Being truthful as we express ourselves, whether formally or informally, as part of casual conversation is fundamental.

Other people, however, have a particularly high responsibility not to bear false witness — those who have arrogated to themselves the role of being societal witnesses: the members of the press.

Journalists, more than any other group in contemporary society, serve as witnesses to the events going on around us. They, by dint of the choice they have made to report to the rest of us what they see and hear, are among the critical witnesses of the events of our time. Because they have taken up this mantle, the Ninth Commandment has particular application to them and places upon them a high responsibility to speak or write truthfully and to eschew false statements.

The Ninth Commandment reminds us that telling the truth is critical, whether in a court of law or in discussing the actions of others in our daily lives. How much more so is this requirement applicable to those who hold themselves out as professional witnesses of current events?

Yet we increasingly observe the exact opposite. Members of the Fourth Estate have ever more frequently become the purveyors not of truthful testimony but of partisan opinion, often in the guise of disseminating truthful testimony.

While everyone is free to express their opinion, the journalists who pretend to be objective observers and reporters of events, and therefore effectively witnesses, have the moral obligation, so and succinctly articulated by the Ninth Commandment, not to disseminate false testimony. Distortion of the facts by those who claim to report the news can have as nefarious an impact as the false testimony of a courtroom witness.

Sadly, we have been dramatically observing this process in the past months since Hamas attacked southern Israel on Oct. 7.

The most dramatic recent example is the alleged bombing by Israel of the al-Ahli Hospital in Gaza City in October. Within minutes of the disaster at the hospital, much of the international press, accredited witnesses to current events, asserted without qualification that Israel had perpetrated a vile massacre in violation of international law. A multitude of reporters promptly declared that Israel had intentionally murdered as many as 500 innocent patients in the hospital.

The reports turned out to be false. But they unleashed a flood of anti-Israel demonstrations across the globe. The reports of an alleged Israeli crime caused a dramatic worldwide uptick in antisemitism, jeopardizing the lives of Jews everywhere. Even some members of Congress shamelessly disseminated the story after its falsity had been demonstrated.

In reality, it was a Hamas rocket that had misfired and landed on the hospital, killing many Gaza Strip residents. But the harm to the truth was done. The false testimony began undermining Israel's efforts to defend itself against Hamas terrorists. Since then, much of the press has continued to shamelessly bear false witness in the Israel-Hamas war, repeating Hamas talking points, which defame Israel and Israelis. The venom spread by this false journalistic testimony is serving to increase anti-Israel and antisemitic incidents.

The Ninth Commandment reminds us that telling the truth is critical, whether in a court of law or in discussing the actions of others in our daily lives. How much more so is this requirement applicable to those who hold themselves out as professional witnesses of current events? The truth is a foundational pillar of any civilized society and must be a solid foundation upon which its press corps functions.

The members of the press, the purveyors of the information that informs our national and international actions, are the ultimate witnesses. As enjoined by the Ninth Commandment, they have a duty not to bear false witness. Sadly, many of these witnesses fail badly at this God-given elementary test of decent behavior.

Gerard Leval is a partner in the Washington office of a national law firm. His book, "Lobbying for Equality: Jacques Godard and the Struggle for Jewish Civil Rights During the French Revolution," was published by HUC Press in 2022.

One perfectly legal trick for charity chicanery

Joint cost accounting is abused to the tune of billions each year

By Rick Berman

If you've ever been on the internet, you've probably seen an ad boasting one easy trick to lose weight. On reflection, we know it's not so simple.

It is that simple, however, if you run a charity and want to mislead the public into thinking you do more good work than you actually deliver. There's a trick for that, and it's perfectly legal. Here's how it works.

Imagine you run a large charity that claims to help animals. It's a good cause, but instead of volunteering your time, you're also doing it for a big payday. You know, lots of people open their wallets to help animals. You raise millions on the promise to help animals from coast to coast.

But raising money isn't cheap. After considering all your fundraising costs — and your hefty salary as CEO — only about half of your budget is actually going to programs that help animals.

Spending half your money on overhead doesn't look good. So there's a trick that will let you say you tell donors that you spend 75% or more of your budget on programs.

It's called joint cost accounting. And it's being used by many charities across the country.

The ASPCA, the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, raises over $300 million from the public through ads featuring cats and dogs. Recently, the ASPCA came under fire from its former CEO, who says the group isn't doing enough to help pet shelters. According to him, the ASPCA spends only about 2% of its budget on financial grants to pet shelters. (Despite what many assume, the ASPCA is not affiliated with the many local SPCAs and humane societies.)

The ASPCA responded by saying that "76 cents of every dollar spent by the ASPCA goes toward programmatic services."

It's a deceptive response.

According to CharityWatch, a leading nonprofit evaluator, the real number is closer to 50 cents of every dollar. The difference is explained by joint cost accounting.

How does it work? Let's say a charity sends out a fundraising letter. The letter might include a basic call to action such as "get screened for cancer." A charity can then claim that some of the costs of the fundraising campaign should be allocated to program spending because of this "educational" message.



ILLUSTRATION BY LINAS GARSYS

Simply put, your donations are paying for direct mail instead of real charitable programs.

And this trick is being abused. Hiding overhead is big business. (ASPCA spending on executives is $6.2 million. The CEO makes $1.1 million a year.)

Consider the difference in program spending between what the ASPCA and CharityWatch say: 25 cents on the dollar. That's one-quarter of the ASPCA's entire budget, which was $340 million in 2022.

Nonprofits that use joint cost accounting must say so in their public tax returns. Hardly any average donor goes through a tax return — if they even know the returns exist.

The ASPCA is far from the only group taking advantage of this accounting trick. Charities for Vets, a campaign I run, evaluates veterans charities and recommends some while cautioning donors on others. One factor is whether a veterans charity uses joint cost accounting to hide its true overhead.

Many veterans charities use this trick. Wounded Warrior Project, for example, declared that it allocated $29.1 million to program spending under joint cost accounting in 2022.

Paralyzed Veterans of America is another large veterans charity that uses joint costs. According to its latest tax filing, it allocated $11.9 million to its program spending using joint costs, more than 10% of its overall budget.

Would you give to a charity if half of every dollar was spent on overhead?

There's no way to calculate how much money charities spend under these joint cost campaigns, but these three groups alone spend $100 million a year. Across the charity world, the figure is undoubtedly in the billions of dollars.

So, the next time you get a letter in the mail from a big charity claiming to spend a certain percentage on its programs, be skeptical. Seek third-party evaluators that cut through the noise and tell you the truth. Americans already donate $500 billion a year to charities. If that money can be used more efficiently, we can do more good without spending another penny.

Rick Berman is president of RBB Strategies.

The wrong lessons of war

Ukraine needs our planes, guns and tanks

By L. Scott Lingamfelter

Some would say that House Speaker Mike Johnson — third in line for the presidency — is an accidental leader.

Elected to Congress in 2016, the Louisiana Republican had no expectation that seven years later, he would be speaker in these troubling times. A faithful Christian who believes in God's providence in our lives, Mr. Johnson must wonder whether his being selected speaker was providence or punishment, particularly as he struggles to keep his position.

He rose to power when "my way or the highway" Republicans ousted former Speaker Kevin McCarthy in a fit of anger. It was an entirely unnecessary public tantrum by publicity-addicted partisans who claimed that Mr. McCarthy mishandled issues important to them. One of those issues was Mr. McCarthy's declared support for financial assistance to Ukraine, a thorny dispute haunting Mr. Johnson now.

Seizing on waning public support for U.S. aid to Ukraine — $75 billion thus far, the size of Virginia's annual budget — far-right House Republicans resorted to comparing that aid to the lack of funding for U.S. border security. Coupling that with the burgeoning national debt and disgust over continuing resolutions to keep the government afloat, the anti-McCarthy cabal successfully ensconced him in the pantheon of former speakers. Mr. Johnson must wonder if his plinth in that hall is being placed today.

The Russian invasion of Ukraine today threatens the international order as seriously as Nazi Germany's unjustified invasion of Poland did in 1939. Even then, Russia was complicit, invading eastern Poland 16 days later.

This week, the speaker faces pressure to fund Ukraine with a much-needed $60 billion aid package for ammunition and other materiel. That funding is essential if Ukraine continues to successfully resist Russia and retake territory lost over recent months. Republican isolationists complain the war amounts to what they call a "forever war." This is how they characterized the two decades of counterinsurgency war in Afghanistan and Iraq following the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

There were lessons to be learned from the global war on terrorism, as it was officially known. The war in Afghanistan continued well beyond a rational point. The mission should have been clear: Track down and punish the terror network that instigated 9/11.

The mission creep toward nation-building for a country locked in the seventh century was a profound mistake. The U.S. would have found it easier to force France to drop the French language in favor of German than to democratize a tribal country like Afghanistan. That forever war should have been quite limited.

The war in Iraq was not required at all. While it is fair to suggest that the U.S. coalition could have dispatched Saddam Hussein after the 1990-1991 Gulf War, he was more of a pain than a problem by 2003. Moreover, the claim that he had engaged in building a nuclear program was never proved.

That war was, therefore, predicated on a false premise. While it did not last as long as the Afghanistan quagmire, it spun off yet another vexing problem. The rise of the Islamic State is rooted in disaffected Sunni Iraqis who hated America's Middle East presence. Compelled to remain in western Iraq and eastern Syria to crush the ISIS threat, we are still there now to blunt any resurgence. The charge that this is a "forever war" is partly true, but to interpret Ukraine similarly is to draw the wrong lessons and misapply them to a very different scenario.

In no recent war since the U.S. pushed Iraq out of Kuwait have we witnessed naked aggression like that of Russia seizing Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula in 2014, followed by Russia's invasion of the country in 2022. The Russian invasion of Ukraine threatens the international order as seriously as Nazi Germany's unjustified invasion of Poland did in 1939. Even then, Russia was complicit, invading eastern Poland 16 days later.

Therefore, as he faces being removed by the far right, Mr. Johnson must not take the wrong lessons from America's so-called forever wars. The lessons from those conflicts are miscalculation and mission creep. The facts of the war in Ukraine are quite different and, if ignored, portend a wider conflict in Europe involving the U.S. It is utter folly to allow Russia to win because, as surely as it is, it will then turn toward a wider conflict with NATO, likely beginning in the Baltic states, which they covet for reincorporation into the Russian bloc.

Congress should not hesitate to fund Ukraine with the $60 billion to sustain that nation's fight. Republicans would do well to recall the words of President Franklin Roosevelt in his fireside chat on Dec. 29, 1940: "The people of Europe who are defending themselves do not ask us to do their fighting. They ask us for the implements of war, the planes, the guns, the tanks."

We must not allow our weariness from "forever wars" to set the stage for something far worse.



ILLUSTRATION BY GREG GROESCH

L. Scott Lingamfelter is a retired Army colonel and combat veteran (1973-2001) and former member of the Virginia House of Delegates (2002-2018). He is the author of "Desert Redleg: Artillery Warfare in the First Gulf War" (University Press of Kentucky, 2020) and "Yanks in Blue Berets: American UN Peacekeepers in the Middle East" (UPK, 2023).

Poulson

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policies. A commitment to debt sustainability in one Congress is not binding on a subsequent Congress. In the 1990s, Congress did in fact balance the budget and stabilize debt as a share of gross domestic product. In that era, called the "Great Moderation," statutory fiscal rules were implemented, committing Congress to debt sustainability.

Over the past two decades, however, those statutory fiscal rules have been routinely circumvented and suspended, leaving us with unsustainable growth in debt. If our statutory fiscal rules are ineffective, we should learn from the experience of other countries that have successfully stabilized debt.

In the latter part of the 20th century, European countries experienced unsustainable growth in public debt. They have since enacted second-generation fiscal rules that have proved effective in stabilizing debt. The most successful of these is the "debt brake" in Switzerland.

The Swiss "debt brake" is a rule that requires the legislature to bring expenditures into balance with revenue in the near term. The rule caps the rate of growth in federal spending at the long-term rate of growth in the economy. If deficits are incurred, the legislature must use surplus revenue to offset deficits in the near term.

The effectiveness of the Swiss "debt brake" was revealed in recent years when expenditures did in fact exceed the spending cap. Over the past two years, the Swiss legislature cut spending on a wide range of government services and is now reviewing future budgets to ensure that they are in compliance with the spending cap.

The Swiss anticipate more cost-cutting in the future because of higher spending on pensions for older adults, children and defense. The U.S. can learn several important lessons from the experience with second-generation fiscal rules in Switzerland and other European countries.

The Swiss "debt brake" is a constitutional fiscal rule enacted through a referendum with support from 85% of voters. Fiscal rules incorporated in the Swiss Constitution are more effective constraints on spending. When politicians violate constitutional fiscal rules, citizens have recourse through the legal system to enforce them and hold them accountable.

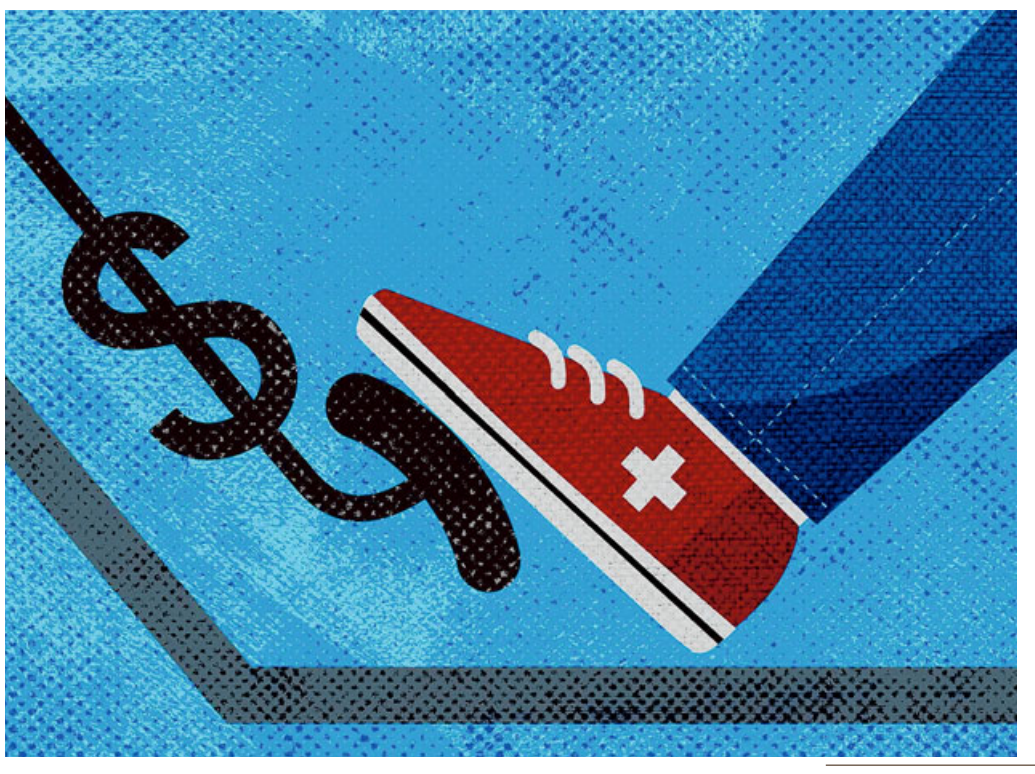

ILLUSTRATION BY GREG GROESCH

The Swiss "debt brake" applies to all federal expenditures except Social Security. Separate rules for Social Security are designed to comply with the spending cap. The Swiss anticipate higher expenditures for pensions in the long term. They are engaged in long-range budget planning to address demographic change and other structural changes in the economy.

The recent cost-cutting measures excluded military spending, and the Swiss anticipate higher defense spending in future years. With the debt brake in place, increased defense spending requires cuts in nondefense spending. By stabilizing debt, however, the Swiss can better finance military spending in the long term.

The "debt brake" applies to cantonal (state) and municipal governments and the federal government in Switzerland. Over the years, the Swiss have enacted reforms to make subnational governments fiscally independent and accountable for enforcing their own fiscal rules. Recent cost-cutting measures include reductions in federal transfers to third parties, including cantonal and municipal governments and other institutions.

This strong federalist system enables the federal government to get its own fiscal house in order.

Barry W. Poulson is emeritus professor at the University of Colorado Boulder and a board member of the Federal Fiscal Sustainability Foundation.

Voters fleeing Democratic Party will instigate radical, populist policies

How we retreat from globalization will significantly affect living standards

By Peter Morici

Minority voters are shifting from the Democratic Party, and a realignment around blue-collar, populist values will have important consequences for economic policy.

Comparing Associated Press 2020 election exit polls and recent national polls, President Biden's lead over former President Donald Trump has increased slightly among White voters — mostly those with a college education.

Among Blacks and Hispanics, who are decidedly more blue-collar, Mr. Biden has lost considerable ground.

Examining voting patterns from the 2012, 2016, 2022, and 2020 presidential and 2020 congressional elections, this erosion in Democratic support includes Asians, too.

In Starr County, Texas, in the Rio Grande Valley, which is 98% Hispanic, Democratic Rep. Henry Cuellar was reelected by 13 percentage points in 2022. His margins were 19 points in 2020 and 35 points in 2016.

Progressives argue that Democrats are not delivering aggressively enough on their agenda — affirmative action, federally financed child care and the like. But many of their ideas do not reflect minority voters' values.

Only about 30% of Blacks and Hispanics identify as liberal, whereas 70% of those groups identify as conservative or moderate. Many are attracted to populist ideas — protectionism and skepticism toward elites, affirmative action, open immigration and political correctness.

Presidents John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson conceived affirmative action to lift those who were disadvantaged by the legacy of slavery and segregation.

The country was about 95% White or Black and 5% Asian or Hispanic. As the population changed, progressive intellectuals increasingly applied the term "people of color."

Critical race theory and "wokeism" emerged, which posit that White culture exhibits enduring prejudices against non-Whites that must be corrected by reassessing the nation's early history, rewriting school curriculums, and instituting aggressive diversity, equity and inclusion programs in the workplace.

For Hispanics and Asians, those views are inconsistent with their progress.

Immigrant families have experienced considerable intergenerational upward mobility. The average family incomes of Hispanics now exceed those of Blacks by 19%, and Asians exceed those of Whites by 34%.

According to the Pew Trust, most Blacks and Hispanics oppose considering race and ethnicity in hiring and promotions.

Yet Biden administration infrastructure, industrial, immigration and other economic policies are keenly attentive to the hard left's social justice agenda.

Unsurprisingly, despite robust growth, low unemployment and falling inflation, 55% of non-White registered voters disapprove of Mr. Biden's handling of the economy. Among Whites who did not go to college, the figure rises to 74% for men and 71% for women.

And 59% of non-Whites disapprove of his handling of immigration.

Pulling all of this together, it is important to remember that more than half of voters do not have a college degree.

Neither Mr. Trump nor Mr. Biden advocates cutting the social safety net, which greatly assists working-class Americans, and neither man advocates higher taxes for lower- and middle-class families.

It's unlikely that Democrats will win simultaneous control of the Senate, House and Oval Office anytime soon, so taxing the rich, while it may be good campaign fodder, is only a fanciful idea.

Affirmative action and DEI enforcement in the workplace, at least as it applies to race and ethnicity, will remain under assault. It doesn't enjoy the support of many it is supposed to most benefit.

With an aging population and growing national security threats, projections that the budget deficit will reach more than 6% of gross domestic product in 2025 are optimistic. It may get much worse.

Either the Federal Reserve permits interest rates to rise to ration savings in favor of government spending — and crowds out money for investments in artificial intelligence, manufacturing and medical science — or it will print more money. The latter would create more inflation.

China appears intent on subsidizing exports of electric vehicles, batteries, and anything else it can to ameliorate the domestic malaise created by its property sector meltdown. Mr. Trump may be more vocal about raising tariffs, but Mr. Biden will feel pressure to act, too.

Immigration policy will be tightened in one way or another, but how we retreat from globalization will significantly affect living standards.

Indiscriminate industrial policies — for example, excessive subsidies for the automotive industry and other fields — and tariffs would breed inefficient production and technologically lagging products in the U.S. compared with China and elsewhere in Asia.

Immigration is importantly adding to skills in the American workforce and creating opportunities even for those who see newcomers as competition. If we slam the door too tight, it becomes another limiting wall, just like a Trumpian 60% tariff on China and an across-the-board 10% levy.

Progressives have been operating on the notion that non-Whites — regardless of their origin or experiences in this country — can be organized under the awning of identity politics.

That's understandable. Their brain thrust at universities and think tanks profit from excluding White men — Jim Crow turned on its head.

That leaves an open door for some of the worst populist impulses.

Peter Morici is an economist and emeritus business professor at the University of Maryland, and a national columnist.

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Employment Opportunities

Salesforce Inc. seeks Field Strategy & Analytics Senior Analyst in McLean, VA: Set company-wide standards around data consumption & visualization & establish best practices for cross-functional partners includ. marketing, product & rest of field organization. **Telecommuting an option. Some travel to Salesforce offices may be required.** Req's: MS(or equiv.)+1 yr. exp. Related technical degree required. Submit resume to Job# 21-9243/ JR245924 via Salesforce Careers webpage: rb.gy/avqrw or by email at: onlinejobpostings@salesforce.com. Salesforce is an Equal Opportunity & Affirmative Action Employer.

Employment Opportunities

CRA International, Inc. has an opening for Associate Principal - Competition in Washington, DC. Conduct research, prepare reports, or formulate plans to address economic problems related to the production & distribution of goods & services or monetary and fiscal policy. May be assigned to various, unanticipated sites throughout U.S. May telecommute 50%. Please apply at: **applytocra@CRA.com**. Must reference job 21761.33.3.

Computer/IT: CGI Technologies & Solutions Inc. seeks Business Systems Analyst in Fairfax, VA to act as a liaison between the biz function & info systems, providing technical/functional expertise in identifying, evaluating, & devel basic systems. Job req Bach deg in Comp Sci, Engg, Info Systems, IT or rel field & 5 yrs in any job title involving exp devel & deploying new batch programs using COBOL, DB2, JCL, CICS, MQSERIES, VSAM, & version control tool CHANGEMAN. Full-time telework permitted. All offers of emp are contingent upon successful comp of a background check, which may also incl drug screen depending on work assignment. Email resume to recruiting@cgifederal.com & ref job code 1333.

Catalyst Cubes, Inc. has mult. permanent F/T openings for Systems Architect. Position. Req. Mstr/ foreign equiv. in IT/CS/Engg. (any field)/rltd field. +1yr.exp. OR Bach./ foreign. equiv.+ 5 yrs. post-bach prog exp as Sys. Engg/Sys. Analyst. Job Loc'n: Sterling, VA & various unanticipated loc'ns across the US. Reloc'n possible. Mail Resumes: Director, 46090 Lake Center Plz, Suite 301, Sterling, VA 20165 or Email: **niranjan@catalystcubes.com**

Consultant, Civil Engineer (Washington, DC) WSP USA Inc.: Provide mngmnt consulting services related to transportation systems & infrastructure. **Reqs**: Master's degree* (or frgn equivt) in Civil & Environmental Engineering or related; 3 yrs exp as a Civil Engineer, Deputy Manager or a rel position. *Will accept a Bachelor's degree (or frgn equivt) & 5 yrs of exp. in lieu of a Master's degree + 3rs exp. Salary is $115,398 w/ Standard Benefits. Email resumes to **jobs@wsp.com, ref #3238**.

Compass Lexecon LLC: Economist – Washington, DC. Assist w formulation of case strategy by contributing to litigation support prjcts by reviewing, synthesizing, & analyzing private docs & published research. Job req a Master's. in Econometrics or rltd & 2 yrs of exp in any job title in litigation support environment involving econometric analysis & data organization/mngmnt. Up to 3 days of tlwrk allowed. Slry $145,000-$160,000/yr. Send cover letter/resume identifying job code WH to GMJobs@FTIConsulting.com. No calls.

Compass Lexecon LLC: Economist – Washington, DC. Assist w formulation of case strategy by contributing to litigation support prjcts by reviewing, synthesizing, & analyzing private docs & published research. Job req a Bachelor's. in Econometrics, Economics, or rltd & 2 yrs of exp in any job title in litigation support. Up to 2 days of tlwrk allowed. Slry $145,000-$160,000/yr. Send cover letter/resume identifying job code MC to GMJobs@FTIConsulting.com. No calls.

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Employment Opportunities

COMPUTER/IT: National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak) in Washington, D.C. & various unanticipated locations throughout the U.S. (remote position) seeks a Principal Software Engineer to analyze, design, dev, & install software solutions. Provide technical oversight thru-out proj lifecycle. Reqts: Bach degree or equiv in Comp Sci, Info Syst, Comp Engg or rel field + 7 yrs progressive, post-bach exp in same role or or rel software development occupation. Must also have 3 yrs exp designing, developing, deploying, & supporting solutions, customizations, & extensions for Maximo & Maximo Mobile solutions using Maximo API/MIF, SQL, Java / J2EE, Eclipse, SVN, Artifactory, & ANT; & 2) developing apps & mobile apps using .Net, Windows Mobile SDK, Antenna SDK, SQL Express, SQL Lite, Interlock Informer Mobility Platform, & Android SDK. Must also have 1 yr of exp designing, developing, & supporting IOS-based mobile apps, incl UI / UX design, usability, technical supp, functional supp, & hardware deployment. All exp may be acquired concurrently. Remote work permitted in accordance w/ standard company policy. All positions require pre-employment background check verification & pre-employment drug screen. Salary: $165,173/yr. Apply at https://bit.ly/3Pxyzx5, Ref Job Code 7189583.

Datalogiqs Inc. has F/T perm. openings for Project Manager position in Sterling, VA & various unanticipated loc'n across US. Req min Bach./ foreign **equiv.in** CS/Info Sys/IT/rltd. + 1 yr exp. as IT/Programmer Analyst. Reloc'n poss.Mail resumes to HR at 22636 DAVIS DR, Ste.130,Sterling,VA 20164 or email **hr@datalogiqs.com**

Computer/IT: CGI Technologies & Solutions Inc. seeks Software Developer in Fairfax, VA (& various unanticipated locations throughout US) to research, design, devel, &/or modify enterprise-wide systs &/or apps s/w. Job req Bach deg in Comp Sci, Engg, Info Systems, IT or a rel field & 5 yrs in any job title involving exp developing JIRA stories. Must be willing to relocate to various unanticipated work locations throughout US. All offers of emp are contingent upon successful comp of a background check, which may incl drug screen depending on work assignment. Email resume to recruiting@cgifederal.com & ref job code 1263.

Computer/IT: CGI Technologies & Solutions Inc. seeks Software Developer in Fairfax, VA to research, design, devel, &/or modify enterprise-wide systs &/or apps s/w. Job req Bach deg in Comp Sci, Engg, Info Systems, IT or rel field & 5 yrs in any job title involving working w/ COBOL, JCL, DB2, CICS, & VSAM. Fulltime telework permitted. All offers of emp are contingent upon successful comp of a background check, which may incl drug screen depending on work assignment. Email resume to recruiting@cgifederal.com & ref job code 1267.

Computer/IT: CGI Technologies & Solutions Inc. seeks Software Developer in Fairfax, VA (& various unanticipated locations throughout US) to research, design, devel, &/or modify enterprise-wide systems &/or apps s/w. Job req Bach deg in Comp Sci, Engg, Info Systems, IT or a rel field & 3 yrs of exp in any job title involving performing design, analysis, & review sessions with technical & business teams. Must be willing to relocate to various unanticipated work locations throughout US. All offers of emp are contingent upon successful comp of a background check, which may also incl drug screen depending on work assignment. Email resume to recruiting@cgifederal.com & ref job code 1276.

Employment Opportunities

Computer/IT: CGI Technologies & Solutions Inc. seeks Software Developer in Fairfax, VA (& various unanticipated locations throughout US) to research, design, devel, &/or modify enterprise-wide systs &/or apps s/w. Job req Bach deg in Comp Sci, Engg, Info Systems, IT or a rel field & 5 yrs in any job title involving exp with front-end development using HTML, CSS, XML, JSON, & jQuery. Must be willing to relocate to various unanticipated work locations throughout US. All offers of emp are contingent upon successful comp of a background check, which may also incl drug screen depending on work assignment. Email resume to recruiting@cgifederal.com & ref job code 1291.

Computer/IT: CGI Technologies & Solutions Inc. seeks Software Developer in Fairfax, VA (& various unanticipated locations throughout US) to research, design, devel, &/or modify enterprise-wide systs &/or apps s/w. Job req Bach deg or equiv in Comp Sci, Comp Engg, IT or a rel field & 6 yrs in any job title involving ETL s/w devel exp. Must be willing to relocate to various unanticipated work locations throughout US. All offers of emp are contingent upon successful comp of a background check, which may also incl drug screen depending on work assignment. Email resume to recruiting@cgifederal.com & ref job code 1356.

COMPUTER/IT: National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak) in Washington, D.C. & various unanticipated locations throughout U.S. (remote position) seeks a Senior Data Engineer to support projects spanning a broad range of sys which req expertise in multi tech environments & increased level of biz knowledge. Create & maintain optimal data pipeline arch. Reqs: Bach degree or equiv in Engg, Comp Sci, Info Sys, or rel field + 5 yrs progressive, post-bach exp in same role or rel software development occupation. Exp must incl 3 yrs of exp: 1) Optimizing analytics performance by writing SQL queries on data that resides in a relational database, incl Amazon Redshift, Oracle, Microsoft SQL Server, & Snowflake; 2) Ensuring quality of data assets through regression testing, UAT, & performance testing; 3) Driving data & info adoption through Cloud tech, incl Azure cloud, Salesforce Cloud, & Amazon cloud; 4) Ingesting & transforming data to load into Data warehouse using ETL tools, incl Informatica & Data Stage; 5) Resolving data quality issues by logging & tracking defects & testing cases using test mgmnt tools, incl HP quality center & HP Application Lifecycle Manager; 6) Reporting key performance metrics for org utilizing reporting tools, incl Business Objects & Tableau; & 7) Deploying apps using Agile & Waterfall methodologies for faster time to market. All exp may be acquired concurrently. Remote work permitted in accordance w/ standard company policy. All positions require pre-employment background check verification & pre-employment drug screen. Salary: $149,594/yr. Apply at https://bit.ly/3TkKbpv, Ref Job Code 7207720.

DEKRA Certification, Inc. seeks Senior EMC/ Radio Frequency Test Engineer to apply standard engineering principals for product evaluation and testing. Travel: Up to 25% of domestic travel required. Worksite: Sterling, VA office. Send resumes by mail to DEKRA Certification, Inc., 1945 The Exchange SE, Suite 300, Atlanta, GA 30339.

Announcement

Get your deduction ahead of the year-end! Donate your car, truck, or SUV to assist the blind and visually impaired. Arrange a swift, no-cost vehicle pickup and secure a generous year-end tax credit. Call Heritage for the Blind Today at 1-844-541-3198 today!

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Announcement

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The Virginia Beef Expo is April 18-21, 2024, at Rockingham Co. Fairgrounds. Enjoy Cattle Sales, Industry Trade Show & Youth Events. Learn more at www.vabeefexpo.com

Home Improvement

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Fairfax County Notice

PLANNING COMMISSION

APRIL 24, 2024, AT 7:30 P.M.

Public hearing before the Planning Commission of Fairfax County, Virginia, to be held at the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, Virginia 22035.

FDPA 2016-DR-027 (RZPA 2022-DR-00148) - BITTERSWEET FIELDS, LLC, FDPA Appl. to amend the final development plan for RZ 2016-DR-027 to permit additional development options and associated changes to development conditions. Located on the N. side of Frying Pan Rd., W. of its intersection with Sunrise Valley Dr. on approx. 6.54 ac. of land zoned PDH-20. Dranesville District. Tax Map 15-4 ((9)) B, C, 4 and 5. ***This hearing is in addition to one previously held on January 31, 2024; anyone who testified in that previous hearing is on record and need not testify again at this new hearing.***

SE 2024-HM-00002 - JACO-TMG HALLEY RISE, L.L.C., SE Appl. to permit an amendment to the previously approved sign plan. Located at 11945 Hopper St., Reston, 20191 on approx. 28.72 ac. of land zoned PDC. Hunter Mill District. Tax Map 17-3 ((8)) 1C1, 1C2, 1C3, 1C5, 1C6.

SE 2023-SU-00030 - TYSON & FRIENDS LLC D/B/A THE DOG STOP, SE Appl. to permit the use of outdoor components associated with an indoor kennel. Located at 6001 Centreville Crest Ln., Centreville, 20121 on approx. 43,062 sq. ft. of land zoned C-7, HC, SC and WS. Sully District. Tax Map 54-4 ((1)) 117 (pt.).

PCA 80-L-070-02 (RZPA 2023-MV-00062) - MILESTONE PROPERTIES IN LORTON LLC, PCA Appl. to amend the proffers for RZ 80-L-070 previously approved for a concrete mixing and batching plant to permit either a recycling center, storage yard, or building materials storage and sales use and associated modifications to proffers and site design with an overall Floor Area Ratio (FAR) of 0.14. Located E. of Interstate 95, W. of Gunston Cove Rd., and approx. 1,600 ft. S. of Lorton Rd. on approx. 2.72 ac. of land zoned I-6. Comp. Plan Rec: Industrial. Mount Vernon District. Tax Map 107-4 ((1)) 68C.

RZ 2021-LE-019 - TOWNS AT VILLA PARK LLC, RZ Appl. to rezone from R-1 to R-8 District to permit residential development with a total density of 6.88 dwelling units per acre (du/ac). Located in the eastern terminus of Wesley Rd., S. of Villa Park Rd. and W. side of Franconia-Springfield Pkwy. on approx. 5.81 ac. of land. Comp. Plan Rec: Residential at 5 - 8 du/ac. Franconia (Formerly Lee) District. Tax Map 90-2 ((4)) 19 and 20.

The meeting is available to view live on Channel 16 and stream live online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cableconsumer/channel-16/live-video-stream. Live audio of the meeting may be accessed via telephone as noted on the website. At the public hearing, interested persons will be given an opportunity to express their view regarding the application. All persons wishing to present their views on these subjects may call the Planning Commission at 703-324-2865, or register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/planningcommission/speaker to be placed on the Speakers List and may appear in-person, or be heard via telephone or pre-recorded video. Deadlines by type of testimony are on the website. In addition, written testimony and other submissions will be received at 12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 552, Fairfax, Virginia 22035 and plancom@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Copies of the full text of proposed ordinances, plans and amendments, as applicable, as well as other documents relating to the aforementioned subjects, are on file and available for review at the office of the Department of Clerk Services and on the County's website at www.fairfaxcounty.gov. To make arrangements to view the documents, please contact the Office of the Planning Commission at 703-324-2865.

Fairfax County is committed to nondiscrimination on the basis of disability in all county programs, services and activities and supports the Americans with Disabilities Act by making reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities. All televised government meetings are closed captioned in English and Spanish (los subtítulos en español). Reasonable accommodation is available upon 48 hours advance notice by calling 703-324-3151 or TTY 711.

April 10th, 2024
April 17th, 2024

AD#82411

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
OFFICE OF CONTRACTING AND PROCUREMENT

PROCUREMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

The Government of the District of Columbia is soliciting electronic proposals for the following:

CAPTION: Citywide Large Guide and Traffic Sign Maintenance

The Government of the District of Columbia (District), Office of Contracting and Procurement (OCP), on behalf of the District Department of Transportation (DDOT), is seeking a contractor to provide standard, expedited and emergency level maintenance services for the ground-mounted and overhead large guide and traffic sign panels, citywide, but primarily on the District Freeways and Expressways, I-66, I-295, I-395, I-695.

MARKET TYPE: In accordance with 27 DCMR Chapter 15, Procurement by Competitive Sealed Bidding, the Contract awarded under this Solicitation shall be an indefinite-delivery indefinite-quantity (IDIQ) contract with fixed unit prices. The Contract shall have a base term of one (1) year, with four (4) one (1) year options.

ADVERTISING DATE/ISSUANCE DATE:
April 9, 2024

INVITATION FOR BID (IFB):

IFB NUMBER: DCKA-2024-B-0058
CLOSING DATE: May 9, 2024
CLOSING TIME: 2:00 P.M. EST

IFB DOCUMENTS ARE AVAILABLE AT:

OCP Website Address:
https://ocp.dc.gov/service/ocp-solicitations

DTAP Website Address: https://dtap.ddot.dc.gov

April 10, 2024
Ad#82687

PROCUREMENT ANNOUNCEMENT – THE GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY MAYOR FOR PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (DMPED), IS SOLICITING OFFERORS FOR THE FOLLOWING: **CAPTION:** POPLAR POINT OWNERS' REPRESENTATIVE; MARKET TYPE: OPEN WITH SUB-CONTRACTING SET ASIDE; **ADVERTISING/ISSUANCE DATE:** WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3, 2024,; **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS:** RFP NO. DCEB-2024-R-0003; **SUBMISSION DUE DATE:** THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 2024; **SUBMISSION TIME:** 2:00 PM LOCAL TIME; **WEBSITE ADDRESSES: www.dcbiz.dc.gov** and **www.ocp.dc.gov**

April 4,10,12, 2024
Ad#82550

washingtontimes.com

LEARN D.C. PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL

NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

LEARN D.C. Public Charter School ("LEARN D.C."), in accordance with section 2204 (c) (1) (A) of the D.C. School Reform Act of 1995 (Public Law 104-134), hereby solicits proposals for janitorial services at its school for 2024-2025 school year. LEARN D.C. will receive bids from Friday, March 29th until 5pm on Friday, April 12th, 2024. The contract would be effective Monday, July 1st, 2024 through Thursday, June 26, 2025. Please also include rates for extra cleaning days (e.g., weekend or evening events that would require a light cleaning crew). We are price-sensitive and open to ideas to revise our scope slightly in order to generate savings.Purchase price is not the only criteria that will be used in the evaluation process.
Additional factors include:

- Experience with Charter School Environments
- Function
- Quality of proposal
- Proposed plan for services and timeline
- Fit with the LEARN philosophy and educational model
- History of providing compliant and timely services
- References
- Company mission, DC based business, and minority-owned business

Feel free to email questions to learn-dc-**bids@learncharter.org**. A description of the anticipated services expected is included on the following pages.

March 29th thru
April 11th, 2024
Ad#72299

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Office of Contracting and Procurement

PROCUREMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

The Government of the District of Columbia is soliciting electronic proposals for the following:

CAPTION: Loan Services and Collections Management for DHCD Housing Assistance Programs

MARKET TYPE: Open Market

ADVERTISING /ISSUANCE DATE: 4/10/2024

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL:

RFP NUMBER: Doc708246
CLOSING DATE: May 2, 2024
CLOSING TIME: 2:00pm

PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE DATE AND TIME: 4/15/2024 at 10:00 a.m.

OCP WEBSITE ADDRESS: www.ocp.dc.gov

April 10, 2024 Ad#82689

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ORDER OF PUBLICATION
Commonwealth of Virginia
VA. CODE § 8.01-316

PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT

Case No: CL23-11280
Commonwealth of Virginia, in re
TPC Wellington LC
v.
Unknown Heirs of Maurice P. Haines, et al.

The object of this suit is to:
Quiet title to real property located in Prince William County, Virginia near the intersection of Wellington Road and Freedom Center Boulevard, which is a portion of Prince William County GPIN 7696-0558, and consists of approximately 14,084 square feet, and is more particularly described in the Verified Complaint to Quiet Title in Case No. CL23-11280.

It is ORDERED that **Unknown Heirs of Maurice P. Haines** appear at the above-named Court and protect his or her interests on or before **May 31, 2024, at 10:30 a.m.**
April 5, 2024

Jacqueline C. Smith;Esq
Clerk
Ana I. Seger
Deputy Clerk

April 10,17 & 24, 2024
May 1, 2024
AD#82658

ORDER OF PUBLICATION
Commonwealth of Virginia
VA. CODE § 8.01-316

PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT

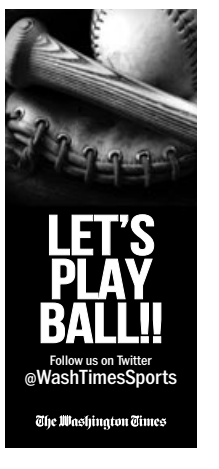
Case No: CL23-11280
Commonwealth of Virginia, in re
TPC Wellington LC
v.
Unknown Heirs of Maurice P. Haines, et al.

The object of this suit is to:
Quiet title to real property located in Prince William County, Virginia near the intersection of Wellington Road and Freedom Center Boulevard, which is a portion of Prince William County GPIN 7696-0558, and consists of approximately 14,084 square feet, and is more particularly described in the Verified Complaint to Quiet Title in Case No. CL23-11280.

It is ORDERED that **Parties Unknown** appear at the above-named Court and protect his or her interests on or before **May 31, 2024, at 10:30 a.m.**
April 5, 2024

Jacqueline C. Smith;Esq
Clerk
Ana I. Seger
Deputy Clerk

April 10,17 & 24, 2024
May 1, 2024
AD#82659





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Legal Notices

FAIRFAX COUNTY

BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS

APRIL 24, 2024

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Sect. 18-110 of the Zoning Ordinance, that at a meeting of the Fairfax County Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) of said County, on **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 2024, at 9:00 A.M.** at 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax VA 22035, the BZA will hold public hearings on the following applications at the time indicated. If you have questions, please contact the Special Permit and Variance Branch of the Zoning Evaluation Division, Department of Planning and Development, at (703) 324-1280 or BZAClerkMail@FairfaxCounty.gov, or review on-line at https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/planning-development/board-zoning-appeals at least one week prior to the meeting for additional information on the status of the meeting. The meeting will be available to view live on Channel 16 and stream live online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cableconsumer/channel-16/live-video-stream. Live audio of the meeting may be accessed via telephone as noted on the website. All persons wishing to present their views on these subjects may call the Clerk to the Board of Zoning Appeals at 703-324-1280 or register online at https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/planning-development/board-zoning-appeals to be placed on the Speakers List, and may appear to be heard in person, unless the meeting is electronic, or pre-recorded video. Deadlines by type of testimony are on the website. In addition, written testimony and other submissions will be received at 12055 Government Center Parkway, Suite 801, Fairfax, 22035 and BZAClerkMail@FairfaxCounty.gov. The following is a descriptive summary only of the application and may not include every detail. Interested parties may review the application in detail on-line https://plus.fairfaxcounty.gov/CitizenAccess/Welcome.aspx (to search enter the Zoning Case number in the "search box" in the upper right hand corner using dashes where needed) or, may be made available at 12055 Government Center Parkway with advance notice by contacting the Clerk to the Board of Zoning Appeals as listed above. ADA: Reasonable accommodation is available upon 48-hour advance notice. For additional information on ADA call (703) 324-1334 (TTY 711 Virginia Relay Center).

9:00 A.M. - Misión Evangelica Jerusalem LA Celestial, Inc., SP 2022-SU-00144 to permit construction of a religious assembly. Located at 6321 Old Centreville Rd., Centreville, 20121 on approx. 1.3 ac. of land zoned R-1 and WS. Sully District. Tax Map 65-1 ((1)) 8C and 8A1.

9:00 A.M. - Jessica G. Christenson, SP 2023-PR-00144 to permit modifications to the provisions for the keeping of animals (chickens). Located at 3219 Wynford Dr., Fairfax, 22031 on approx. 27,144 sq. ft. of land zoned R-2. Providence District. Tax Map 59-1 ((18)) 35.

9:00 A.M. - Rosa Luzmila Andia Romero d/b/a Rossy's Daycare, SP 2023-PR-00135 to permit a home day care facility. Located at 2807 Hogan Ct., Falls Church, 22043 on approx. 1,553 sq. ft. of land zoned R-8 and HC (pt.). Providence District. Tax Map 49-2 ((22)) 15.

9:00 A.M. - Russell Schmidt and Campbell Millar Schmidt, SP 2023-MV-00169 to permit a reduction in setback requirements to permit: 1.) a second story addition 8.8 ft. from the northwestern side lot line and 28.0 ft. from the front lot line, 2.) a second story addition 8.4 ft. from the southeastern side lot line and 28.4 ft. from the front lot line, and 3.) a roofed deck (covered porch) 5.3 ft. from the northwestern side lot line. Located at 2200 Foresthill Rd., Alexandria, 22307 on approx. 7,500 sq. ft. of land zoned R-4. Mount Vernon District. Tax Map 83-3 ((14)) (19) 12.

9:00 A.M. - Vicky M. Tsaparas and Glen E. Tsaparas, SP 2023-PR-00202 to permit a reduction in setback requirements to permit a roofed deck (covered porch) 22.6 ft. from the front lot line. Located at 6924 Chestnut Ave., Falls Church, 22042 on approx. 7,451 sq. ft. of land zoned R-4. Providence District. Tax Map 50-4 ((16)) 78.

April 10th, 2024
April 17th, 2024

AD#82412

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
OFFICE OF CONTRACTING AND PROCUREMENT

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CONNECTICUT AVENUE STREETSCAPE
AND DECKOVER
DCKA-2024-B-0044

The District of Columbia Office of Contracting and Procurement ("OCP"), on behalf of the District Department of Transportation ("DDOT" or "Department"), is seeking a contractor to provide construction services for Connecticut Avenue Streetscape in accordance with the Solicitation Documents, as defined herein.
The Contractor shall provide all labor, materials, and equipment for the construction of the Project in accordance with the Contract Documents ("the Work"), which includes:

Providing all labor, materials, tools, equipment, and incidentals necessary to complete the project as shown on the drawings, standard specifications, supplementary specifications (also referred to as J.12 "Special Provisions"). The specifications describe the minimum requirements for the material, quality control, and construction that shall govern the work to be performed.

The project includes roadway and traffic improvements to Connecticut Avenue NW from Dupont Circle to California Street NW, and a new Deckover structure over the Dupont Circle Underpass between Dupont Circle and Q St NW, as shown on the contract plans and indicated in the specifications / special provisions, drawings, standard specifications, and Supplementary Specifications (also referred to as J.12 "Special Provisions").

The District contemplates awarding a fixed-price incentive contract based on fixed unit and lump sum prices, with a not-to-exceed amount (ceiling) equal to the Contract award amount. This is a federally funded, open market project with a 19% Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) subcontracting goal. Bidders will be evaluated in accordance with the IFB and all applicable laws and regulations. A Bid Bond in the amount of 5% of the bid amount is required.

Following are important dates related to this IFB:

Solicitation Start Date: Wednesday April 10, 2024
Virtual Pre-Bid Conference: Wednesday April 17, 2024, at 10:00AM EST
Questions Due Date: Wednesday May 1, 2024 at 4:45 PM EST Response to
Questions: Friday May 17, 2024
Bid Closing/Due Date: Monday June 3, 2024 at 2:00 PM EST

The IFB documents and any amendments or updates to the IFB will be available on the District Department of Transportation Access Portal (DTAP) website, **https://dtap.ddot.dc.gov** and **https://contracts.ocp.dc.gov/solicitations**. Bidders interested in responding must submit questions and bids in accordance with the instructions set out in the IFB. All inquiries concerning this solicitation must be submitted in writing in accordance with the instructions set out in the IFB.

Bids will be accepted electronically as detailed in the solicitation documents.

Run Date(s), 2024
Ad#82653

Legal Notices

DC & Maryland
202-636-4953
Virginia
703-425-0903

The Washington Times

Trustee Sales: DC

BWW Law Group, LLC
6003 Executive Blvd., Suite 101
Rockville, MD 20852
(301) 961-6555

COURT APPOINTED TRUSTEE
JUDICIAL SALE OF REAL PROPERTY

2055 38th St. SE, Unit #201
Washington, DC 20020

In execution of the Superior Court for District of Columbia's Order/Decree in Case #2023-CAB-005530 R(RP) the Trustees will offer for sale at public auction the real property located at 2055 38th St. SE, Unit #201, Washington, DC, 20020, designated as being Square 5670, Lot 2132, and as more fully described in the Deed of Trust dated December 27, 2005, which is recorded as Instrument #2006016514 in the Land Records of the District of Columbia. The sale will occur within the offices of Alex Cooper Aucts., Inc., 4910 Massachusetts Ave., NW #100, Washington, DC 20016, 202-364-0306 on

THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 2024 AT 12:11 PM

The property, in fee simple, together with all improvements thereon, will be sold by Trustee's deed, in "as is" condition, subject to conditions, restrictions, and agreements of record affecting the same, if any, and with no warranty of any kind. The sale will be subject to ratification by the Court.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of $10,000, in the form of a certified check, cashier's check, or money order, will be required of the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The deposit required to bid at the auction is waived for the Noteholder and any of its successors or assigns. The Noteholder may bid up to the amount owed on the Note plus all costs and expenses of sale on credit and may submit a written bid to the Trustee, which shall be announced at sale. The sale is subject to ratification by the Court. The balance of the purchase price, together with interest on the unpaid purchase money at the current rate contained in the Deed of Trust Note from the date of sale to the date funds are received by the Trustees, to be paid in certified funds within 60 days of final ratification of the sale by the Court. There will be no abatement of interest for the purchaser in the event additional funds are tendered before settlement, or in the event settlement is delayed for any reason whatsoever. TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE FOR THE PURCHASER. If purchaser fails or refuses to settle within the aforesaid time frame, the deposit will be forfeited and the Trustees may apply the deposit toward costs, fees, and their compensation associated with the initial auction and the resale process, with any remaining amount credited to the underlying debt. Additionally, if the purchaser fails to timely settle, the Trustees may file a motion to resell the property, and the purchaser agrees to pay the Trustees' reasonable attorney fees as ordered by the Court in connection with said motion. The purchaser also waives personal service of any paper and Show Cause Order in connection with a motion to resell, expressly agrees to accept service by certified mail and regular mail sent to the address provided by the purchaser on the documents executed at the time of the sale, and agrees that such service is complete upon mailing and that actual receipt of said mailings is not required. 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. Real estate taxes are adjusted for the fiscal year in which the property is sold through the date of the sale, and thereafter assumed by the purchaser. Purchaser is responsible for any recapture of homestead tax credit. All other public and/or private charges or assessments, to the extent such amounts survive foreclosure sale, including water/sewer charges, whether incurred prior to or after the sale to be paid by the purchaser. All transfer taxes and recordation taxes shall be paid by purchaser. Purchaser is responsible for obtaining physical possession of the property, and assumes risk of loss or damage to 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. Court Appointed 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 Superior Court for any reason, the Purchaser's sole remedy, at law or equity, is return of the deposit without interest.
BWW#: 360923-1

Howard N. Bierman, Carrie M. Ward, et. al.,
Court Appointed Trustees

ALEX COOPER auctioneers
4910 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W. • Suite 100
Washington, DC 20016 • 202.364.0306
www.alexcooper.com

Mar 27, Apr 3, Apr 10, Apr 17
(Serial #519262) Ad#82085

Trustee Sales: DC

BWW Law Group, LLC
6003 Executive Blvd., Suite 101
Rockville, MD 20852
(301) 961-6555

COURT APPOINTED TRUSTEE
JUDICIAL SALE OF REAL PROPERTY

6516 N. Capitol St., NW
Washington, DC 20012

In execution of the Superior Court for District of Columbia's Order/Decree in Case #2019 CA 001506 R(RP) the Trustees will offer for sale at public auction the real property located at 6516 N. Capitol St., NW, Washington, DC, 20012, designated as being Square 3367-S, Lot 0064, and as more fully described in the Deed of Trust dated June 15, 2015, which is recorded as Instrument #2015062368 in the Land Records of the District of Columbia. The sale will occur within the offices of Alex Cooper Aucts., Inc., 4910 Massachusetts Ave., NW #100, Washington, DC 20016, 202-364-0306 on

THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 2024 AT 12:15 PM

The property, in fee simple, together with all improvements thereon, will be sold by Trustee's deed, in "as is" condition, subject to conditions, restrictions, and agreements of record affecting the same, if any, and with no warranty of any kind. The sale will be subject to ratification by the Court.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of $30,000, in the form of a certified check, cashier's check, or money order, will be required of the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The deposit required to bid at the auction is waived for the Noteholder and any of its successors or assigns. The Noteholder may bid up to the amount owed on the Note plus all costs and expenses of sale on credit and may submit a written bid to the Trustee, which shall be announced at sale. The sale is subject to ratification by the Court. The balance of the purchase price, together with interest on the unpaid purchase money at the current rate contained in the Deed of Trust Note from the date of sale to the date funds are received by the Trustees, to be paid in certified funds within 30 days of final ratification of the sale by the Court. There will be no abatement of interest for the purchaser in the event additional funds are tendered before settlement, or in the event settlement is delayed for any reason whatsoever. TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE FOR THE PURCHASER. If purchaser fails or refuses to settle within the aforesaid time frame, the deposit will be forfeited and the Trustees may apply the deposit toward costs, fees, and their compensation associated with the initial auction and the resale process, with any remaining amount credited to the underlying debt. Additionally, if the purchaser fails to timely settle, the Trustees may file a motion to resell the property, and the purchaser agrees to pay the Trustees' reasonable attorney fees as ordered by the Court in connection with said motion. The purchaser also waives personal service of any paper and Show Cause Order in connection with a motion to resell, expressly agrees to accept service by certified mail and regular mail sent to the address provided by the purchaser on the documents executed at the time of the sale, and agrees that such service is complete upon mailing and that actual receipt of said mailings is not required. 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. Real estate taxes are adjusted for the fiscal year in which the property is sold through the date of the sale, and thereafter assumed by the purchaser. Purchaser is responsible for any recapture of homestead tax credit. All other public and/or private charges or assessments, to the extent such amounts survive foreclosure sale, including water/sewer charges, whether incurred prior to or after the sale to be paid by the purchaser. All transfer taxes and recordation taxes shall be paid by purchaser. Purchaser is responsible for obtaining physical possession of the property, and assumes risk of loss or damage to 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. Court Appointed 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 Superior Court for any reason, the Purchaser's sole remedy, at law or equity, is return of the deposit without interest.
BWW#: 325792-2

Howard N. Bierman, Carrie M. Ward, et. al.,
Court Appointed Trustees

ALEX COOPER auctioneers
4910 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W. • Suite 100
Washington, DC 20016 • 202.364.0306
www.alexcooper.com

Mar 27, Apr 3, Apr 10, Apr 17
(Serial #519336) Ad#82087

Trustee Sales: DC

Rosenberg & Associates, LLC
4340 East West Highway, Suite 600
Bethesda, MD 20814
(301) 907-8000

COURT APPOINTED SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEES
FORECLOSURE SALE OF REAL PROPERTY

217 Webster St., NE
Washington, DC 20011

Lot numbered 66 in square numbered 3672 in a subdivision made by John A. Nugent and Elizabeth T. Nugent as per plat recorded in the office of the surveyor for the District of Columbia in Liber 128 at Folio 19.

In execution of the Superior Court for District of Columbia's ("Court") Order/Decree in Case #2019-CA-008481 R(RP) WILMINGTON TRUST, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLEY AS SUCCESSOR TRUSTEE TO CITIBANK, N.A., AS TRUSTEE TO LEHMAN XS TRUST MORTGAGE PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2006-5 v. NAEEM BREWINGTON the undersigned Substitute Trustees will offer for sale at public auction within the offices of Alex Cooper Aucts., Inc., 4910 Massachusetts Ave., NW #100, Washington, DC 20016, 202-364-0306 on

MONDAY, APRIL 22, 2024 AT 10:10 AM

THE ABOVE DESCRIBED PROPERTY AND IMPROVEMENTS THEREON situated in Washington, DC and more fully described in a Deed of Trust dated December 13, 2005 recorded as Instrument No. 2006000474 among the D.C. Land Records.

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

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of at least $25,000 or ten percent (10%) of the winning bid amount, whichever is lower, will be required at time of sale, in the form of certified check or cashier's check, or other form as Substitute Trustees may determine. The deposit required to bid at the auction is waived for the Noteholder and any of its successors or assigns. The Noteholder may bid up to the amount owed on the Note plus all costs and expenses of sale on credit and may submit a written bid to the Substitute Trustees which shall be announced at sale. The Balance of the purchase price to be paid in cash or certified funds within 60 days of final ratification of the sale by the Court. TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE. If purchaser fails to settle within the aforesaid 60 days of the ratification, the purchaser agrees to pay the Substitute Trustees' reasonable attorney fees as ordered by the Court, plus all costs incurred, if the Substitute Trustees have filed the appropriate motion with the Court to resell the property. Purchaser waives personal service of any paper filed with the Court in connection with such motion and any Show Cause Order issued by the Court and expressly agrees to accept service of any such paper or Order by certified mail and regular mail sent to the address provided by the purchaser and as recorded on the documents executed by the purchaser at the time of the sale. Service shall be deemed effective upon the purchaser 3 days after postmarked by the United States Post Office. It is expressly agreed by the purchaser that actual receipt of the certified mail is not required for service to be effective. If the purchaser fails to go to settlement the deposit shall be forfeited to the Substitute Trustees and all expenses of this sale (including attorney fees and full commission on the gross sales price of the sale) shall be charged against and paid from the forfeited deposit. In the event of resale the defaulting purchaser shall not be entitled to any surplus proceeds or profits resulting from any resale of the property regardless of any improvements made to the real property. Interest is to be paid on the unpaid purchase money at the rate contained in the Deed of Trust Note from the date of sale to the date the funds are received in the office of the Substitute Trustees. In the event that the settlement is delayed for ANY REASON WHATSOEVER, there shall be no abatement of interest. Taxes, water rent, condominium fees and/or homeowner association dues, all public charges/assessments payable on an annual basis, including sanitary and/or metropolitan district charges, if applicable, to be adjusted for the current year to date of sale and assumed thereafter by the purchaser. Purchaser shall be responsible for the costs of all transfer taxes, documentary stamps and all other costs incident to settlement. Purchaser shall be responsible for obtaining physical possession of the property. Purchaser assumes the risk of loss from the date of sale forward. The sale is subject to post sale audit by the Mortgage holder to determine whether the borrower filed bankruptcy, entered into any repayment/forbearance agreement, reinstated or paid off prior to the sale. In any such event the Purchaser agrees that upon notification by the Substitute Trustees of such event the sale is null and void and of no legal effect and the deposit returned without interest. File #22-002658-DC-F-1

Diane S. Rosenberg, Mark D. Meyer, et al.,
Substitute Trustees

ALEX COOPER auctioneers
4910 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W. • Suite 100
Washington, DC 20016 • 202.364.0306
www.alexcooper.com

Mar 27, Apr 3, Apr 10, Apr 17
(Serial #519333) Ad#82100

Trustee Sales: DC

Rosenberg & Associates, LLC
4340 East West Highway, Suite 600
Bethesda, MD 20814
(301) 907-8000

COURT APPOINTED SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEES
FORECLOSURE SALE OF REAL PROPERTY

3505 24th St., NE
Washington, DC 20018

All that certain lor or parcel of land situate in the District of Columbia and being more particularly described as follows: Lot 66 in R. L. Elliot Subdivision of lots in Square 4292, as per Plat Recorded in the Office of Surveyor for District of Columbia in Liber 80 at folio 13.

In execution of the Superior Court for District of Columbia's ("Court") Order/Decree in Case #2017-CA-005494 R(RP) THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON F/K/A THE BANK OF NEW YORK, AS TRUSTEE FOR THE CERTIFICATE HOLDERS OF CWABS, INC. ASSET-BACKED CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2005-16 v. FRANKLIN K. FANTROY the undersigned Substitute Trustees will offer for sale at public auction within the offices of Alex Cooper Aucts., Inc., 4910 Massachusetts Ave., NW #100, Washington, DC 20016, 202-364-0306 on

MONDAY, APRIL 22, 2024 AT 10:14 AM

THE ABOVE DESCRIBED PROPERTY AND IMPROVEMENTS THEREON situated in Washington, DC and more fully described in a Deed of Trust dated November 18, 2005 recorded as Instrument No. 2006103575 among the D.C. Land Records.
The property will be sold by Trustee's Deed "as is" without any covenant, expressed or implied, in Fee Simple, subject to conditions, restrictions, easements, and all other recorded instruments superior to the Deed of Trust referenced above, and subject to ratification by the Court.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of at least $40,000 or ten percent (10%) of the winning bid amount, whichever is lower, will be required at time of sale, in the form of certified check or cashier's check, or other form as Substitute Trustees may determine. The deposit required to bid at the auction is waived for the Noteholder and any of its successors or assigns. The Noteholder may bid up to the amount owed on the Note plus all costs and expenses of sale on credit and may submit a written bid to the Substitute Trustees which shall be announced at sale. The Balance of the purchase price to be paid in cash or certified funds within 60 days of final ratification of the sale by the Court. TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE. If purchaser fails to settle within the aforesaid 60 days of the ratification, the purchaser agrees to pay the Substitute Trustees' reasonable attorney fees as ordered by the Court, plus all costs incurred, if the Substitute Trustees have filed the appropriate motion with the Court to resell the property. Purchaser waives personal service of any paper filed with the Court in connection with such motion and any Show Cause Order issued by the Court and expressly agrees to accept service of any such paper or Order by certified mail and regular mail sent to the address provided by the purchaser and as recorded on the documents executed by the purchaser at the time of the sale. Service shall be deemed effective upon the purchaser 3 days after postmarked by the United States Post Office. It is expressly agreed by the purchaser that actual receipt of the certified mail is not required for service to be effective. If the purchaser fails to go to settlement the deposit shall be forfeited to the Substitute Trustees and all expenses of this sale (including attorney fees and full commission on the gross sales price of the sale) shall be charged against and paid from the forfeited deposit. In the event of resale the defaulting purchaser shall not be entitled to any surplus proceeds or profits resulting from any resale of the property regardless of any improvements made to the real property. Interest is to be paid on the unpaid purchase money at the rate contained in the Deed of Trust Note from the date of sale to the date the funds are received in the office of the Substitute Trustees. In the event that the settlement is delayed for ANY REASON WHATSOEVER, there shall be no abatement of interest. Taxes, water rent, condominium fees and/or homeowner association dues, all public charges/assessments payable on an annual basis, including sanitary and/or metropolitan district charges, if applicable, to be adjusted for the current year to date of sale and assumed thereafter by the purchaser. Purchaser shall be responsible for the costs of all transfer taxes, documentary stamps and all other costs incident to settlement. Purchaser shall be responsible for obtaining physical possession of the property. Purchaser assumes the risk of loss from the date of sale forward. The sale is subject to post sale audit by the Mortgage holder to determine whether the borrower filed bankruptcy, entered into any repayment/forbearance agreement, reinstated or paid off prior to the sale. In any such event the Purchaser agrees that upon notification by the Substitute Trustees of such event the sale is null and void and of no legal effect and the deposit returned without interest. File #23-000164-DC-F-1

Diane S. Rosenberg, Mark D. Meyer, et al.,
Substitute Trustees

ALEX COOPER auctioneers
4910 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W. • Suite 100
Washington, DC 20016 • 202.364.0306
www.alexcooper.com

Mar 27, Apr 3, Apr 10, Apr 17
(Serial #519334) Ad#82102

Trustee Sales: Prince William Co.

TRUSTEE SALE
7541 Purdue Court, Manassas, VA 20109
Prince William County

In execution of a Deed of Trust in the original principal amount of $252,200.00, dated March 17, 2021 recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of the Prince William County, Virginia, in Document No. 202103180033209, at the request of the holder of the Note, the undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction at the entrance to the Circuit Court of Prince William County, 9311 Lee Avenue, Manassas, on **May 14, 2024 at 1:00 PM** the property described in said deed, located at the above address and briefly described as:

Unit 16, Phase 1, Coverstone Square, together with an undivided interest in the common elements

Subject to any and all covenants, conditions, restrictions, easements, and all other matters of record taking priority over the Deed of Trust, if any, affecting the aforesaid property.

TERMS OF SALE: CASH: A deposit of $20,000.00 or 10% of the sales price, whichever is lower, cash or certified check will be required at the time of sale, but no more than $10,000.00 of cash will be accepted, with settlement within fifteen (15) days from the date of sale. Sale is subject to post sale confirmation that the borrower did not file for protection under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code prior to the sale which affects the validity of the sale, as well as to post-sale confirmation of the status of the loan with the loan servicer including, but not limited to, determination of whether the borrower entered into any repayment agreement, reinstated or paid off the loan prior to the sale. In any such event, the sale shall be null and void, and the Purchaser's sole remedy, in law or equity, shall be the return of his deposit without interest. Additional terms may be announced at the time of sale. Pursuant to the Federal Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, we advise you that this firm is a debt collector attempting to collect the indebtedness referred to herein and any information we obtain will be used for that purpose.

SAMUEL I. WHITE, P.C., Substitute Trustee

This is a communication from a debt collector.

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

SAMUEL I. WHITE, P.C. **(87867)**
448 Viking Drive, Suite 350
Virginia Beach, Virginia 23452
757-457-1460 - **Call Between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. or visit our website at www.siwpc.net**

April 10th, 2024
April 17th, 2024

AD#82559

Trustee Sales: Prince William Co.

TRUSTEE SALE
6470 Mckee Way, Manassas, VA 20111
Prince William County

In execution of a Deed of Trust in the original principal amount of $417,000.00, dated April 15, 2016 recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of the Prince William County, Virginia, in Document No. 201604190027888 and modified in Document No. 202301200003020, at the request of the holder of the Note, the undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction at the entrance to the Circuit Court of Prince William County, 9311 Lee Avenue, Manassas, on **May 7, 2024 at 1:00 PM** the property described in said deed, located at the above address and briefly described as:

Lot 24, Mockingbird Ridge, with any improvements thereon

Subject to any and all covenants, conditions, restrictions, easements, and all other matters of record taking priority over the Deed of Trust, if any, affecting the aforesaid property.

TERMS OF SALE: CASH: A deposit of $20,000.00 or 10% of the sales price, whichever is lower, cash or certified check will be required at the time of sale, but no more than $10,000.00 of cash will be accepted, with settlement within fifteen (15) days from the date of sale. Sale is subject to post sale confirmation that the borrower did not file for protection under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code prior to the sale which affects the validity of the sale, as well as to post-sale confirmation of the status of the loan with the loan servicer including, but not limited to, determination of whether the borrower entered into any repayment agreement, reinstated or paid off the loan prior to the sale. In any such event, the sale shall be null and void, and the Purchaser's sole remedy, in law or equity, shall be the return of his deposit without interest. Additional terms may be announced at the time of sale. Pursuant to the Federal Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, we advise you that this firm is a debt collector attempting to collect the indebtedness referred to herein and any information we obtain will be used for that purpose.

SAMUEL I. WHITE, P.C., Substitute Trustee

This is a communication from a debt collector.

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

SAMUEL I. WHITE, P.C. **(85707)**
448 Viking Drive, Suite 350
Virginia Beach, Virginia 23452
757-457-1460 - **Call Between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. or visit our website at www.siwpc.net**

April 3rd, 2024
April 10th, 2024

AD#82305

JOIN OUR TEAM
washingtontimes.com/careers
The Washington Times

Trustee Sales: DC

McCabe, Weisberg & Conway, LLC
312 Marshall Avenue, Suite 800
Laurel, MD 20707
www.mwc-law.com

COURT APPOINTED SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEES
FORECLOSURE SALE OF REAL PROPERTY

7703 12th St., NW
Washington, DC 20012

In execution of the Superior Court for District of Columbia's ("Court") Order Granting Default Judgment in Case #2019-CA-000945 R(RP) DEUTSCHE BANK TRUST COMPANY AMERICAS, AS TRUSTEE FOR RESIDENTIAL ACCREDIT LOANS, INC., MORTGAGE ASSET-BACKED PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2006-QS13 C/O OCWEN LOAN SERVICING, LLC v. MARK BANKS A/K/A MARK L. BANKS the undersigned Substitute Trustees will offer for sale at public auction within the offices of Alex Cooper Aucts., Inc., 4910 Massachusetts Ave., NW #100, Washington, DC 20016, 202-364-0306 on

THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 2024 AT 12:25 PM

THE ABOVE DESCRIBED PROPERTY AND IMPROVEMENTS THEREON situated in Washington, DC and more fully designated as Lot 0022 in Square 2958 in a Deed of Trust dated July 17, 2006 recorded as Instrument No. 2006118795 among the D.C. Land Records.

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

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of at least $60,000 or ten percent (10%) of the winning bid amount will be required at time of sale, in the form of cashier's or certified check, or other form as Substitute Trustees may determine. The deposit required to bid at the auction is waived for the Noteholder and any of its successors or assigns. The Noteholder may bid up to the amount owed on the Note plus all costs and expenses of sale on credit and may submit a written bid to the Substitute Trustees which shall be announced at sale. The Balance of the purchase price to be paid in certified funds within thirty (30) days of final ratification of the sale by the Court. TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE. If Purchaser fails to settle within the aforesaid thirty (30) days of the ratification, the Purchaser agrees to pay the Substitute Trustees' reasonable attorney fees as ordered by the Court, plus all costs incurred, if the Substitute Trustees have filed the appropriate motion with the Court to resell the property. Purchaser waives personal service of any paper filed with the Court in connection with such motion and any Show Cause Order issued by the Court and expressly agrees to accept service of any such paper or Order by certified mail and regular mail sent to the address provided by the Purchaser and as recorded on the documents executed by the Purchaser at the time of the sale. Service shall be deemed effective upon the Purchaser 3 days after postmarked by the United States Post Office. It is expressly agreed by the Purchaser that actual receipt of the certified mail is not required for service to be effective. If the Purchaser fails to go to settlement the deposit shall be forfeited to the Substitute Trustees and all expenses of this sale (including attorney fees and full commission on the gross sales price of the sale) shall be charged against and paid from the forfeited deposit. In the event of resale the defaulting Purchaser shall not be entitled to any surplus proceeds or profits resulting from any resale of the property regardless of any improvements made to the real property. Interest is to be paid on the unpaid purchase money at the rate of 4.45% per annum from the date of sale to the date the funds are received in the office of the Substitute Trustees. In the event that the settlement is delayed for ANY REASON WHATSOEVER, there shall be no abatement of interest. Taxes, water rent, condominium fees and/or homeowner association dues, all public charges/assessments payable on an annual basis, including sanitary and/or metropolitan district charges, if applicable, to be adjusted for the current year to date of sale and assumed thereafter by the Purchaser. Purchaser shall be responsible for the costs of all transfer taxes, documentary stamps and all other costs incident to settlement. Purchaser shall be responsible for physical possession of the property. Purchaser assumes the risk of loss from the date of sale forward. If the Substitute Trustees are unable to convey good and marketable title, the Purchaser's sole remedy in law or equity shall be limited to the refund of the deposit to the Purchaser. The sale is subject to post sale audit by the noteholder to determine whether the borrower filed bankruptcy, entered into any repayment/forbearance agreement, reinstated or paid off prior to the sale. In any such event the Purchaser agrees that upon notification by the Substitute Trustees of such event the sale is null and void and of no legal effect and the deposit returned without interest. (Matter #2013-34835).

Laura H. G. O'Sullivan, et al.,
Substitute Trustees

ALEX COOPER auctioneers
4910 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W. • Suite 100
Washington, DC 20016 • 202.364.0306
www.alexcooper.com

Mar 27, Apr 3, Apr 10, Apr 17
(Serial #519312) Ad#82080

Trustee Sales: DC

Rosenberg & Associates, LLC
4340 East West Highway, Suite 600
Bethesda, MD 20814
(301) 907-8000

COURT APPOINTED SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEES
FORECLOSURE SALE OF REAL PROPERTY

110A Joliet St., SW
Washington, DC 20032

Lot numbered Twenty-two (22) in Square numbered Sixty-two Hundred Seventy-Seven (6277), in a subdivision made by Kennedy-Chamberlain, Inc., as per plat recorded in Liber 130, folio 182 of the records of the Office of the Surveyor for the District of Columbia.

In execution of the Superior Court for District of Columbia's ("Court") Order/Decree in Case #2023-CAB-001709 R(RP) MORTGAGE ASSETS MANAGEMENT, LLC v. ESTATE OF CARRIE S. BROWN the undersigned Substitute Trustees will offer for sale at public auction within the offices of Alex Cooper Aucts., Inc., 4910 Massachusetts Ave., NW #100, Washington, DC 20016, 202-364-0306 on

MONDAY, APRIL 22, 2024 AT 10:12 AM

THE ABOVE DESCRIBED PROPERTY AND IMPROVEMENTS THEREON situated in Washington, DC and more fully described in a Deed of Trust dated March 25, 2008 recorded as Instrument No. 2008042223 among the D.C. Land Records.

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

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of at least $25,000 or ten percent (10%) of the winning bid amount, whichever is lower, will be required at time of sale, in the form of certified check or cashier's check, or other form as Substitute Trustees may determine. The deposit required to bid at the auction is waived for the Noteholder and any of its successors or assigns. The Noteholder may bid up to the amount owed on the Note plus all costs and expenses of sale on credit and may submit a written bid to the Substitute Trustees which shall be announced at sale. The Balance of the purchase price to be paid in cash or certified funds within 60 days of final ratification of the sale by the Court. TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE. If purchaser fails to settle within the aforesaid 60 days of the ratification, the purchaser agrees to pay the Substitute Trustees' reasonable attorney fees as ordered by the Court, plus all costs incurred, if the Substitute Trustees have filed the appropriate motion with the Court to resell the property. Purchaser waives personal service of any paper filed with the Court in connection with such motion and any Show Cause Order issued by the Court and expressly agrees to accept service of any such paper or Order by certified mail and regular mail sent to the address provided by the purchaser and as recorded on the documents executed by the purchaser at the time of the sale. Service shall be deemed effective upon the purchaser 3 days after postmarked by the United States Post Office. It is expressly agreed by the purchaser that actual receipt of the certified mail is not required for service to be effective. If the purchaser fails to go to settlement the deposit shall be forfeited to the Substitute Trustees and all expenses of this sale (including attorney fees and full commission on the gross sales price of the sale) shall be charged against and paid from the forfeited deposit. In the event of resale the defaulting purchaser shall not be entitled to any surplus proceeds or profits resulting from any resale of the property regardless of any improvements made to the real property. Interest is to be paid on the unpaid purchase money at the rate contained in the Deed of Trust Note from the date of sale to the date the funds are received in the office of the Substitute Trustees. In the event that the settlement is delayed for ANY REASON WHATSOEVER, there shall be no abatement of interest. Taxes, water rent, condominium fees and/or homeowner association dues, all public charges/assessments payable on an annual basis, including sanitary and/or metropolitan district charges, if applicable, to be adjusted for the current year to date of sale and assumed thereafter by the purchaser. Purchaser shall be responsible for the costs of all transfer taxes, documentary stamps and all other costs incident to settlement. Purchaser shall be responsible for obtaining physical possession of the property. Purchaser assumes the risk of loss from the date of sale forward. The sale is subject to post sale audit by the Mortgage holder to determine whether the borrower filed bankruptcy, entered into any repayment/forbearance agreement, reinstated or paid off prior to the sale. In any such event the Purchaser agrees that upon notification by the Substitute Trustees of such event the sale is null and void and of no legal effect and the deposit returned without interest. File #22-002804-DC-F-1

Diane S. Rosenberg, Mark D. Meyer, et al.,
Substitute Trustees

ALEX COOPER auctioneers
4910 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W. • Suite 100
Washington, DC 20016 • 202.364.0306
www.alexcooper.com

Mar 27, Apr 3, Apr 10, Apr 17
(Serial #519335) Ad#82101

Trustee Sales: Virginia

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF
1409 PINNACLE DRIVE,
STAFFORD, VA 22554

In execution of a Deed of Trust in the original principal amount of $252,000.00, with an annual interest rate of 3.125000% dated September 16, 2005, recorded among the land records of the Circuit Court for the County of Stafford as Deed Instrument Number 050038137, the undersigned appointed Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction all that property located in the County of Stafford, **on the courthouse steps of the Circuit Court building for the County of Stafford located at 1300 Courthouse Road, Stafford, Virginia on May 15, 2024 at 1:15 PM**, the property with improvements to wit:

LOT 66 2960 SQFT
HIGHPOINTE SUBDIVISION

Tax Map No. 20V-66

THIS COMMUNICATION IS FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

TERMS OF SALE: ALL CASH. A bidder's deposit of 10% of the sale price, will be required in cash, certified or cashier's check. Settlement within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Trustees may forfeit deposit. Additional terms to be announced at sale. Loan type: Conventional. Reference Number 18-277675.

PROFESSIONAL FORECLOSURE CORPORATION OF VIRGINIA, Substitute Trustees,
C/O LOGS LEGAL GROUP LLP,
Mailing Address:
10130 Perimeter Parkway, Suite 400,
Charlotte, North Carolina 28216
(703) 449-5800.

Publishing Dates: March 20th, 2024
April 10th, 2024
April 17th, 2024

AD#81593

JOIN THE CONVERSATION @WashTimes



The Washington Times

Legal Notices

DC & Maryland
202-636-4953

Virginia
703-425-0903



The Washington Times

Trustee Sales: DC

BWW Law Group, LLC
6003 Executive Blvd., Suite 101
Rockville, MD 20852
(301) 961-6555

COURT APPOINTED TRUSTEE
JUDICIAL SALE OF REAL PROPERTY

610 Rock Creek Church Rd., NW
Washington, DC 20010

In execution of the Superior Court for District of Columbia's Order/Decree in Case #2018 CA 001569 R(RP) the Trustees will offer for sale at public auction the real property located at 610 Rock Creek Church Rd., NW, Washington, DC, 20010, designated as being Square 3034, Lot 0808, and as more fully described in the Deed of Trust dated August 24, 2001, which is recorded as Instrument #2001083121 in the Land Records of the District of Columbia. The sale will occur within the offices of Alex Cooper Aucts., Inc., 4910 Massachusetts Ave., NW #100, Washington, DC 20016, 202-364-0306 on

THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 2024 AT 12:13 PM

The property, in fee simple, together with all improvements thereon, will be sold by Trustee's deed, in "as is" condition, subject to conditions, restrictions, and agreements of record affecting the same, if any, and with no warranty of any kind. The sale will be subject to ratification by the Court.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of $25,000, in the form of a certified check, cashier's check, or money order, will be required of the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The deposit required to bid at the auction is waived for the Noteholder and any of its successors or assigns. The Noteholder may bid up to the amount owed on the Note plus all costs and expenses of sale on credit and may submit a written bid to the Trustee, which shall be announced at sale. The sale is subject to ratification by the Court. The balance of the purchase price, together with interest on the unpaid purchase money at the current rate contained in the Deed of Trust Note from the date of sale to the date funds are received by the Trustees, to be paid in certified funds within 30 days of final ratification of the sale by the Court. There will be no abatement of interest for the purchaser in the event additional funds are tendered before settlement, or in the event settlement is delayed for any reason whatsoever. TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE FOR THE PURCHASER. If purchaser fails or refuses to settle within the aforesaid time frame, the deposit will be forfeited and the Trustees may apply the deposit toward costs, fees, and their compensation associated with the initial auction and the resale process, with any remaining amount credited to the underlying debt. Additionally, if the purchaser fails to timely settle, the Trustees may file a motion to resell the property, and the purchaser agrees to pay the Trustees' reasonable attorney fees as ordered by the Court in connection with said motion. The purchaser also waives personal service of any paper and Show Cause Order in connection with a motion to resell, expressly agrees to accept service by certified mail and regular mail sent to the address provided by the purchaser on the documents executed at the time of the sale, and agrees that such service is complete upon mailing and that actual receipt of said mailings is not required. 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. Real estate taxes are adjusted for the fiscal year in which the property is sold through the date of the sale, and thereafter assumed by the purchaser. Purchaser is responsible for any recapture of homestead tax credit. All other public and/or private charges or assessments, to the extent such amounts survive foreclosure sale, including water/sewer charges, whether incurred prior to or after the sale to be paid by the purchaser. All transfer taxes and recordation taxes shall be paid by purchaser. Purchaser is responsible for obtaining physical possession of the property, and assumes risk of loss or damage to 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. Court Appointed 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 Superior Court for any reason, the Purchaser's sole remedy, at law or equity, is return of the deposit without interest. BWW#: 323338-1

Howard N. Bierman, Carrie M. Ward, et. al.,
Court Appointed Trustees

ALEX COOPER auctioneers
4910 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W. • Suite 100
Washington, DC 20016 • 202.364.0306
www.alexcooper.com

Mar 27, Apr 3, Apr 10, Apr 17
(Serial #519103) Ad#82086

Trustee Sales: Virginia

TRUSTEE'S SALE
26120 Flintonbridge Drive,
South Riding, VA 20152

THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

In execution of the Deed of Trust in the original principal amount of $417,000.00 dated May 18, 2006 and recorded as Instrument No. 20060519-0044521, of the Loudoun County land records, the appointed Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction **at the main entrance of the courthouse for the Circuit Court of Loudoun County, 18 E Market Street, Leesburg, Virginia 20176 on May 1, 2024 at 12:45 PM,** the property described in said deed of trust, located at the above address and more particularly described as follows:

Lot numbered Sixteen (16), in Section numbered Forty-Three (43), South Riding, as the same appears platted, subdivided and recorded in Deed Book 1672 at Page 2198 among the land records of Loudoun County, Virginia.

Parcel ID: 099251151000

The property and improvements will be sold in "as is" physical condition without warranty of any kind.

TERMS OF SALE: A non-refundable bidder's deposit of 10% of the sale price or 10% of the original principal amount of the subject Deed of Trust, whichever is lower, by cashier's or certified check, required at time of sale except for the party secured by the Deed of Trust. Risk of loss on purchaser from date and time of auction. Balance of the purchase price must be paid by cashier's check within 15 days from sale date. Except for Virginia Grantor's tax, all settlement costs and expenses are purchaser's responsibility. Taxes are pro-rated to the date of sale. Purchaser is responsible for obtaining possession of the property. If purchaser defaults, deposit may be forfeited and property resold at the risk and cost of the defaulting purchaser who shall be liable for any deficiency in the purchase price and all costs, expenses and attorney's fees of both sales. If Trustee does not convey title for any reason, purchaser's sole remedy is return of deposit without interest. This sale is subject to post-sale audit by the Substitute Trustee of the conduct of the auction itself as well as the status of the loan secured by the Deed of Trust, including, but not limited to, determining whether prior to sale a bankruptcy was filed, a forbearance, repayment or other agreement was entered into or the loan was reinstated or paid off; in any such event this sale shall be null and void and purchaser's sole remedy shall be return of deposit without interest. This communication is from a debt collector and is an attempt to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE: Lenox Title Trustee Services, LLC, c/o McMichael Taylor Gray, LLC, 3550 Engineering Drive, Suite 260, Peachtree Corners, GA 30092

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

Lenox Title Trustee Services, LLC,
Substitute Trustee
c/o Adrian G. Jacobs, Esq.
McMichael Taylor Gray, LLC
3550 Engineering Drive, Suite 260
Peachtree Corners, GA 30092
Phone: 404.474.7149
Fax: 404.745.8121
MTG File No.: VA2022-00042-2

Run Dates: April 10th, 2024
April 17th, 2024

AD#81217

Trustee Sales: DC

BWW Law Group, LLC
6003 Executive Blvd., Suite 101
Rockville, MD 20852
(301) 961-6555

COURT APPOINTED TRUSTEE
JUDICIAL SALE OF REAL PROPERTY

3647 Horner Pl., SE
Washington, DC 20032

In execution of the Superior Court for District of Columbia's Order/Decree in Case #2019-CA-006285 R(RP) the Trustees will offer for sale at public auction the real property located at 3647 Horner Pl., SE, Washington, DC, 20032, designated as being Square 6090, Lot 0039, and as more fully described in the Deed of Trust dated August 3, 2017, which is recorded as Instrument #2017089782 in the Land Records of the District of Columbia. The sale will occur within the offices of Alex Cooper Aucts., Inc., 4910 Massachusetts Ave., NW #100, Washington, DC 20016, 202-364-0306 on

THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 2024 AT 12:09 PM

The property, in fee simple, together with all improvements thereon, will be sold by Trustee's deed, in "as is" condition, subject to conditions, restrictions, and agreements of record affecting the same, if any, and with no warranty of any kind. The sale will be subject to ratification by the Court.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of $35,000, in the form of a certified check, cashier's check, or money order, will be required of the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The deposit required to bid at the auction is waived for the Noteholder and any of its successors or assigns. The Noteholder may bid up to the amount owed on the Note plus all costs and expenses of sale on credit and may submit a written bid to the Trustee, which shall be announced at sale. The sale is subject to ratification by the Court. The balance of the purchase price, together with interest on the unpaid purchase money at the current rate contained in the Deed of Trust Note from the date of sale to the date funds are received by the Trustees, to be paid in certified funds within 60 days of final ratification of the sale by the Court. There will be no abatement of interest for the purchaser in the event additional funds are tendered before settlement, or in the event settlement is delayed for any reason whatsoever. TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE FOR THE PURCHASER. If purchaser fails or refuses to settle within the aforesaid time frame, the deposit will be forfeited and the Trustees may apply the deposit toward costs, fees, and their compensation associated with the initial auction and the resale process, with any remaining amount credited to the underlying debt. Additionally, if the purchaser fails to timely settle, the Trustees may file a motion to resell the property, and the purchaser agrees to pay the Trustees' reasonable attorney fees as ordered by the Court in connection with said motion. The purchaser also waives personal service of any paper and Show Cause Order in connection with a motion to resell, expressly agrees to accept service by certified mail and regular mail sent to the address provided by the purchaser on the documents executed at the time of the sale, and agrees that such service is complete upon mailing and that actual receipt of said mailings is not required. 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. Real estate taxes are adjusted for the fiscal year in which the property is sold through the date of the sale, and thereafter assumed by the purchaser. Purchaser is responsible for any recapture of homestead tax credit. All other public and/or private charges or assessments, to the extent such amounts survive foreclosure sale, including water/sewer charges, whether incurred prior to or after the sale to be paid by the purchaser. All transfer taxes and recordation taxes shall be paid by purchaser. Purchaser is responsible for obtaining physical possession of the property, and assumes risk of loss or damage to 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. Court Appointed 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 Superior Court for any reason, the Purchaser's sole remedy, at law or equity, is return of the deposit without interest. BWW#: 339253-1

Howard N. Bierman, Carrie M. Ward, et. al.,
Court Appointed Trustees

ALEX COOPER auctioneers
4910 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W. • Suite 100
Washington, DC 20016 • 202.364.0306
www.alexcooper.com

Mar 27, Apr 3, Apr 10, Apr 17
(Serial #519212) Ad#82084

Order Of Pub - Domestic: Prince William Co.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION
Commonwealth of Virginia
VA. CODE § 8.01-316

PRINCE WILLIAM JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT

Case No: JJ155587-01-01
Commonwealth of Virginia, in re
CABRERA ALEMAN, LESLYN

The object of this suit is to:
LESLYN CABRERA ALEMAN

It is ORDERED that **JOSE ADRIAN GUERRERO** appear at the above-named Court and protect his or her interests on or before **May 3, 2024 11:00 AM.**
DATE: March 22, 2024

Jennifer Houchin
DEPUTY CLERK

April 10,17 & 24,2024
May 1, 2024
AD#82662

Order Of Pub - Domestic

ORDER OF PUBLICATION
Commonwealth of Virginia
VA. CODE. § 8.01-316

STAFFORD JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS COURT

Case No. JJ057095-07-00, 08-00, 09-00, 10-00
Commonwealth of Virginia, in re
HHILARY BO CAAL
STAFFORD DSS
v.
MARIANO BO CAAL, ADELA CAAL CA and all persons claiming percentage

The object of this suit is to:
TERMINATE THE RESIDUAL PARENTAL RIGHTS OF THE PUTATIVE MOTHER, ADELA BO CAAL, FATHER, MARIANO BO CAAL, AND ANOTHER PERSON CLAIMING PERCENTAGE OF JHILARY BO CAAL.

It is ORDERED that **MARIANO BO CAAL, ADELA BO CAAL, and any other person claiming percentage of JHILARY BO CAAL** appear at the above-named Court and protect his/her interests on or before **May 13, 2024 1:00 PM.**
Date:March 13, 2024

Megan Mayott
DEPUTY CLERK

March 20 & 27, 2024
April 3 & 10, 2024
AD#81859

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Show Cause Notice

VIRGINIA:
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF LOUDOUN COUNTY

In Re: ESTATE OF
JALEH B.F. BARADARAN,
DECEASED

Probate File No. 20727

SHOW CAUSE ORDER

THIS CAUSE COMES BEFORE THE COURT upon the Motion of the Administrator, Marissa R. Bagasra, of the Estate of Jaleh B.F. Baradaran, for Entry and Publication of a Show Cause Order.

IT APPEARING TO THE COURT that a report of the accounts of Marissa R. Bagasra, Administrator of the Estate of Jaleh B.F. Baradaran, deceased, and of the debts and demands against the Estate have been filed in the Clerk's Office; that six months have elapsed since the qualification of Marissa R. Bagasra; and that this Order is a proper one, it is hereby

ORDERED that the creditors of, and all others interested in, the Estate do show cause, if any they can, on the **3rd day of May, 2024, at 9:00 AM**, before this Court, against the payment and delivery of the Estate of Jaleh B.F. Baradaran, deceased, to the distributees thereof, with or without refunding bonds as the Court prescribes. It is further

ORDERED that this Order shall be published in the **Washington Times** once a week for two successive weeks pursuant to §64.2-556 of the Code of Virginia, as amended.
Entered this 27h day of March, 2024

James E. Plowman, Jr.
JUDGE

TROXELL LEIGH P.C.

Marissa Bagasra
Esquire (VSB No. 88985)
50 Catoctin Circle, NE,
Suite 325
Leesburg, VA 20176
(703) 749-0937
(703) 777-4001 (facsimile)
mbagasra@tllawpc.com
Administrator for Estate of Jaleh B.F. Baradaran

April 3, and 10, 2024
AD#82502



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Show Cause Notice

VIRGINIA:
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY

IN RE:
Estate of Christine Margarete Schram
Decedent

Fiduciary No. W-18617/CM22-2207

SHOW CAUSE AGAINST DISTRIBUTION

IT APPEARING TO THE COURT that a report of the accounts of Gretchyn G. Meinken, Administrator, c.t.a. of the Estate of Christine Margarete Schram, and a commissioner's report of the debts and demands hearing against the Estate have been filed in the Clerk's office of this court and that six (6) months have elapsed since the qualification of the Administrator, c.t.a.

On the motion of the Administrator, c.t.a., it is hereby ORDERED that the creditors of and all others interested in the Estate of Christine Margarete Schram do show cause, if any, on the **10th day of May, 2024, at 10:30 a.m.,** before this Court against the payment and delivery of the Estate of Christine Margarete Schram to the decedents distributees without requiring refunding bonds.

It is further ORDERED *that the foregoing portion of this Order be published once a week for two (2) successive weeks in* ***The Washington Times***, a newspaper of general circulation in Prince William County, Virginia.

Entered this 3rd day of April, 2024

By;Angela L Horan
Judge, Prince William County Circuit Court

A COPY TESTE:
PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT
BY:Katherine Jones
Deputy Clerk

WE ASK FOR THIS
Gretchyn G. Mainken, Esq.
Administrator, c.t.a of the Estate of Christine Margarete Schram

Rachel Davis
VA Bar No. 98164
Gretchyn G. Meinken
(VA Bar No. 75190)
616 North Washington Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
FRIEDMAN, GRIMES, MEINKEN
& LEISCHNER, PLLC
703.836.9030 (telephone)
703.683.1543 (facsimile)
meinken@oldtownlawyers.com
davis@oldtownlawyers.com
Counsel for the Administrator, c.t.a

April 10 & 17, 2024
AD#82654

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Trustee Sales: Fairfax Co.

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF
3100 SOUTH MANCHESTER STREET APT. # 620,
FALLS CHURCH, VIRGINIA 22044
COUNTY OF FAIRFAX

This Property will be sold subject to
a 1 year Right of Redemption by the
Secretary of Housing and Urban Development

In execution of a certain deed of trust dated 06/19/17, in the original principal amount of 231,000.00 recorded in the County of Fairfax, Virginia, as Book 25091, Page 1273, as Instrument No. 2017039407.001, as amended by an instrument appointing the undersigned as Substitute Trustee, default having occurred in the payment of the Note thereby secured and at the request of the holder, the undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction in the front of the building housing the Circuit Court of the COUNTY OF FAIRFAX, VA located at 4110 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax, Virginia, 22030 on **May 8, 2024,** at **11:00 am**, the property described in said deed of trust, located at the above address, with improvements thereon and more particularly described as follows: FAIRFAX, STATE VIRGINIA, MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS; ALL THOSE PREMISES COMPRISING CONDOMINIUM UNIT NO. IL 620, IN WOODLAKE TOWERS CONDOMINIUM, AND THE LIMITED COMMON ELEMENTS APPURTENANT THERETO, IN A CO11DOMIUIUM REGIME CONSTITUTED AND ESTABLISHED UNDER THE VIRGINIA CONDOMINIUM ACT, CHAPTER 4.2 OF TITLE 55 OF THE CODE OF VIRGINIA (1950), BY A DECLARATION RECORDED NOVEMBER 6, 1980 IN DEED BOOK 5494 AT PAGE 1, AMONG THE LAND RECORDS OF FAIRFAX COUNTY, VIRGINIA, AND AS THE SAME MAY BE LAWFULLY AMENDED FROM TIME TO TIME. THE IMPROVEMENTS THEREON BEING KNOWN AS 3100 SOUTH MANCHESTER STREET, UNIT #620, PARCEL ID: 0514 13020620 TERMS OF SALE: Neither the Substitute Trustee nor the holder of the note secured by the deed of trust will deliver possession of the property to the successful bidder. The purchaser at the sale will be required to pay all closing costs. Real estate taxes, water/sewer fees and other public charges will be prorated as of the date of sale. The risk of loss or damage to the property passes to the purchaser immediately upon the conclusion of the Substitute Trustee's sale. Terms: A bidder's deposit of ten percent (10%)of the sale price or ten percent price (10%) of the original principal balance of the subject deed of trust, whichever is lower, in the form of cash or certified funds payable to the Substitute Trustee must be present at the time of sale. The balance of the purchase price will be due within 20 days at the office of the Substitute Trustee. The Substitute Trustee reserves the right to suspend bidding prior to completion of the sale. Time is of the essence as to the closing date and the payment of the purchase price. If payment of the balance does not occur within twenty days of the sale date, the deposit will be forfeited. Seller shall not be responsible for any costs incurred by the purchaser in connection with their purchase or settlement, including, without limitation, state and local recording fees, title insurance or research, or any other costs of purchaser's acquisition. Trustee shall have no duty to obtain possession for purchaser. All risks of casualty pass to successful bidder at conclusion of bidding. The property and the improvements thereon will be sold "AS IS" and without representation or warranties of any kind. The sale is subject to all liens, encumbrances, conditions, easements and restrictions, if any, superior to the mentioned deed of trust and lawfully affecting the property. Sale is subject to post-sale confirmation that the borrower did not file for protection under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code prior to the sale, as well as to post-sale confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the loan servicer including, but not limited to, determination of whether the borrower(s) entered into any repayment agreement, reinstated or paid off the loan prior to the sale. In any such event, the sale shall be null and void, and the Purchaser's sole remedy, in law or equity, shall be the return of the Purchaser's deposit without interest. Additional terms to be announced at the sale. For more information contact: Michael T. Cantrell, Esq., member of Surety Trustees, at 301-490-3361 or www.mwc-law.com.

April 3rd, 2024
April 10th, 2024

AD#81515

Legal Notices

DC & Maryland
202-636-4953

Virginia
703-425-0903



The Washington Times

Auctions: Maryland

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

To satisfy the owner's storage lien, PS Retail Sales, LLC will sell at public auction on **April 17th, 2024**, the personal property, which may include but are not limited to: household and personal items, office and other equipment. The public sale of these items will begin at **09:00 AM** and continue until all units are sold. The lien sale is to be held at the online auction website, **www.storagetreasures.com**, where indicated. For online lien sales, bids will be accepted until 2 hours after the time of the sale specified.

PUBLIC STORAGE # 07161, 4318 Kenilworth Ave, Hyattsville, MD 20781, (301) 645-4075
Time: 09:00 AM
Sale to be held at www.storagetreasures.com.

PUBLIC STORAGE # 26417, 3005 Kenilworth Ave, Hyattsville, MD 20781, (301) 245-7956
Time: 09:15 AM
Sale to be held at www.storagetreasures.com.

PUBLIC STORAGE # 25861, 5556 Tuxedo Rd, Hyattsville, MD 20781, (301) 364-4236
Time: 09:30 AM
Sale to be held at www.storagetreasures.com.

PUBLIC STORAGE # 27321, 2308 Chillum Road, Hyattsville, MD 20782, (301) 363-2363
Time: 09:45 AM
Sale to be held at www.storagetreasures.com.

PUBLIC STORAGE # 27151, 4301 Rhode Island Ave, Brentwood, MD 20722, (301) 209-1009
Time: 10:00 AM
Sale to be held at www.storagetreasures.com.

PUBLIC STORAGE # 22316, 7800 Fenton Street, Silver Spring, MD 20910, (301) 637-4661
Time: 10:15 AM
Sale to be held at www.storagetreasures.com.

PUBLIC STORAGE # 27180, 1352 Holton Lane, Takoma Park, MD 20912, (301) 445-2693
Time: 10:30 AM
Sale to be held at www.storagetreasures.com.

PUBLIC STORAGE # 27185, 5329 Westbard Ave, Bethesda, MD 20816, (301) 718-4600
Time: 10:45 AM
Sale to be held at www.storagetreasures.com.

PUBLIC STORAGE # 27824, 5423 Butler Road, Bethesda, MD 20816, (301) 363-0617
Time: 11:00 AM
Sale to be held at www.storagetreasures.com.

Public sale terms, rules, and regulations will be made available prior to the sale. All sales are subject to cancellation. We reserve the right to refuse any bid. Payment must be in cash or credit card-no checks. Buyers must secure the units with their own personal locks. To claim tax-exempt status, original RESALE certificates for each space purchased is required. By PS Retail Sales, LLC, 701 Western Avenue, Glendale, CA 91201. (818) 244-8080.

Run Date: April 10th, 2024

AD#81753

Auctions: Virginia

Commercial Foreclosure Auction. 341 E. Market St. Leesburg, VA 20176. 2,719 sq ft Income Producing, Long Term Tenant. Live Auction April 11th 11:00 AM at Loudoun Co Courthouse. Dudley Resources.com for info

Marina Auction. 5.29 AC - Deepwater Access - Income Producing. Online Auction April 25th @ 2:00 PM. 107 Dockside Dr, Deltaville, VA 23043. Dudley Resources.com for info

Auctions: Maryland

Life Storage will hold a public auction at the location indicated:

8255 Washinton Blvd Jessup, MD 20794 on 4/17/2024 at 10:00 AM

Units A186, A328 and D814

Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the above referenced facility in order to complete the transaction. Life Storage may refuse any bid and may rescind any purchase up until the winning bidder takes possession of the personal property.

April 10, 2024 Ad#82520

Notice After Sale: Prince George's Co.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

RALPH J. DIPIETRO, ET AL
Substitute Trustees
Plaintiffs

V. **CASE NO.: C-16-CV-23-004455**

ROLAND BUTLER, JR.
DANDRIA D. BUTLER
Defendant

NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given this 29th day of March, 2024, by the Circuit Court for Prince George's County, Maryland, that the sale of the property mentioned in these proceedings and described as **3701 Hill Park Drive, Temple Hills MD 20748** will be ratified and confirmed, unless cause to the contrary thereof be shown on or before the 29th day of April, 2024, next, provided a copy of this NOTICE be published at least once a week in each of three successive weeks in some newspaper of general circulation published in said County before the 29th day of April, 2024, next.

The report states the amount of sale to be **$430,000.00** to JLG Investments, LLC.

/s/ ***Mahasin El Amin***
#723
Clerk of the Circuit Court
for Prince George's County

Attorney:
Ralph J. DiPietro, Esq.
Hofmeister Robinson & DiPietro
11350 McCormick Road, EP II, Suite 601
Hunt Valley, MD 21031
410-832-8822

Ad#82498
April 3,10 & 17, 2024

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JANRIC CLASSIC SUDOKU

Rating: Gold

Fill in the blank cells using numbers 1 to 9. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and 3x3 block. Use logic and the process of elimination to solve the puzzle. The difficulty level ranges from Bronze (easiest) to Silver to Gold (hardest).

		7	4			2		
		1		2	3		5	
6	2					4		
	9		6					
1		3		7		5		9
					8		2	
		9					7	1
	1		9	4		6		
		5			1	9		

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ANSWERS TO PREVIOUS PUZZLES:

1	6	5	7	2	8	3	9	4
2	3	4	1	5	9	6	7	8
7	9	8	3	4	6	5	1	2
3	2	7	5	1	4	9	8	6
6	5	1	8	9	2	7	4	3
4	8	9	6	7	3	1	2	5
8	1	2	9	6	5	4	3	7
5	7	3	4	8	1	2	6	9
9	4	6	2	3	7	8	5	1



JUMBLE/David L. Hoyt & Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

SEEEG

MROAA

GLHIPT

MHALYN



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: TRACT MOOSE MEDIUM HAPPEN
Answer: They worked on the song separately and then — COMPARED NOTES

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RUBES/Leigh Rubin



IN THE BLEACHERS/Steve Moore



NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

www.stanxwords.com

Echo Chamber

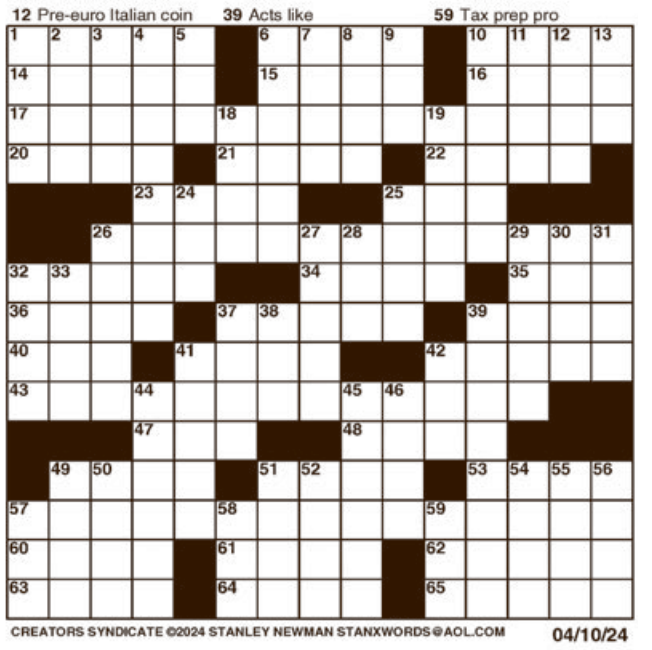
By Mark McClain, Edited by Stanley Newman

ACROSS

1 Gets well
6 Informal eatery
10 Toppled
14 Not trendy at all
15 Amazes
16 Operatic solo
17 "Feathery farewell" oldie song
20 Identical
21 Bygone time
22 General vicinity
23 Horse rider's strap
25 Nintendo game console
26 French high-kicking performers
32 Low-heeled shoes
34 Concerning, in a memo
35 Sticky substance
36 Freeway path
37 Snowball fight sound
39 Frankenstein's assistant
40 "Green" prefix
41 __ over (topple)
42 Chimney output
43 Sailor's response to the skipper
47 Chop (off)
48 Littlest of a litter
49 Angler's attachment
51 Unlock
53 Does sums
57 Box of chocolates sampling
60 "Averse to" prefix
61 Bangkok native
62 Coke alternative
63 Loch __ monster
64 Do damage to
65 Positive trait

DOWN

1 Major airports
2 Irish pop singer
3 Attention-getting sound
4 Set free
5 Undercover agent
6 Hut on a beach
7 Leather-punching tools
8 Noteworthy deed
9 PC corner key
10 Cotton or rayon
11 Cleveland's lake
12 Pre-euro Italian coin
13 Young boy
18 Monumental tale
19 Virginia senator Tim
24 Naval NCO
25 Bump on a toad
26 Paddler's boat
27 Tot's ice cream flavor
28 Genetic molecule
29 Incite to action
30 Chessboard castle
31 Feeling achy or angry
32 Dog-biting bug
33 Frilly, as doilies
37 Leak out slowly
38 Chest muscle, for short
39 Acts like
41 Former capital of Japan
42 __ Francisco Bay
44 Suspects' defenses
45 Early tourney round
46 Adjust, as an engine
49 Doggie biscuit shape
50 Hill-building insects
51 Govt.'s workplace overseer
52 Cousin to an apple
54 Toppings for snack chips
55 Medicinal amount
56 Irritated mood
57 Prohibition
58 To the __ degree (highly)
59 Tax prep pro



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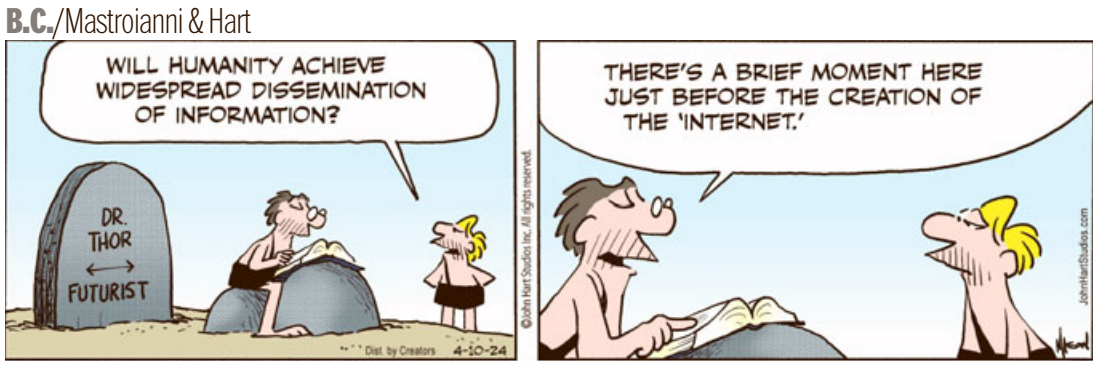
MORE OF STAN'S CROSSWORDS! Play FREE from Stan's archives of Easy, Hard and Sunday puzzles at: tinyurl.com/stan-newman-crosswords

B.C./Mastroianni & Hart



LOLA/Todd Clark



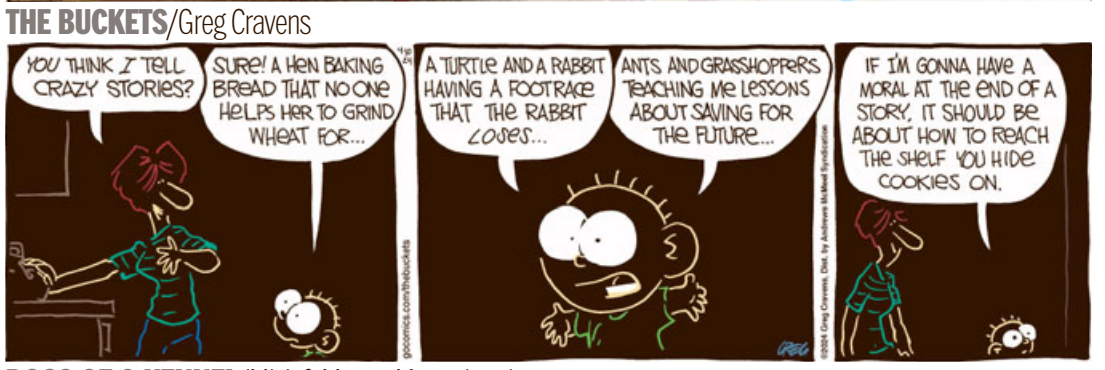
BOUND & GAGGED/Dana Summers



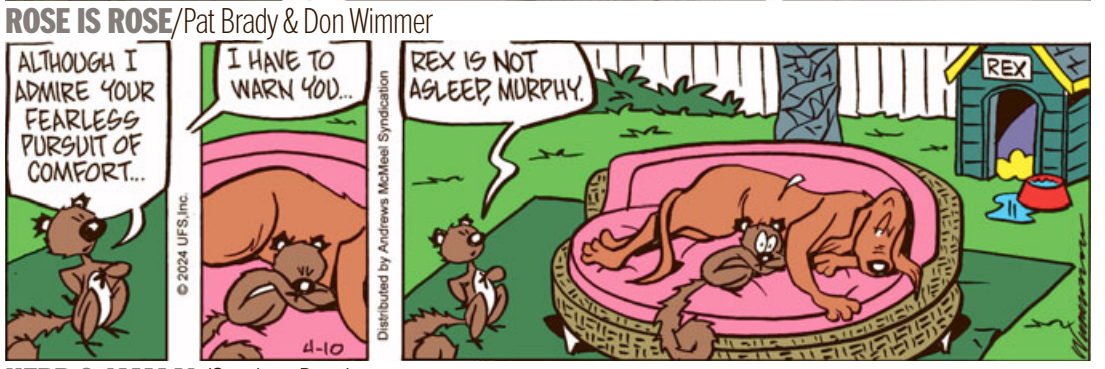
ADAM @ HOME/Rob Harrell



THE BUCKETS/Greg Cravens



ROSE IS ROSE/Pat Brady & Don Wimmer



DOGS OF C-KENNEL/Mick & Mason Mastroianni



HERB & JAMAAL/Stephen Bentley



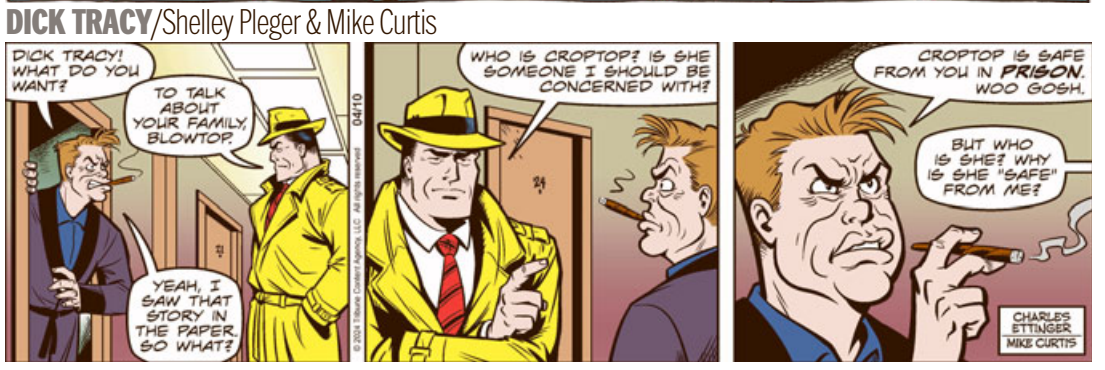
CARPE DIEM/Niklas Eriksson



BROOM-HILDA/Russell Myers



DICK TRACY/Shelley Pleger & Mike Curtis



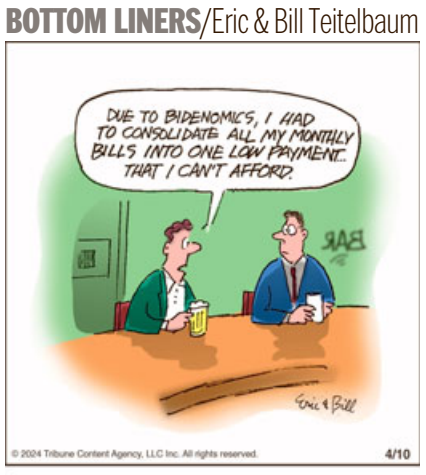
POOCH CAFE/Paul Gilligan



STRANGE BREW/John Deering



BOTTOM LINERS/Eric & Bill Teitelbaum



THE FLYING McCOYS/Glenn & Gary McCoy



PARDON MY PLANET/Vic Lee



BLISS/Harry Bliss





UNIVERSAL PICTURES VIA ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dev Patel stars as Kid, who fights while wearing a gorilla mask in an underground boxing ring in "Monkey Man."

MOVIES

A political allegory bathed in blood

'Monkey Man' a gory star-making turn for Patel

By Jake Coyle
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Has there been a more satisfying actor to watch mature on screen in recent years than Dev Patel?

The endearingly earnest, scrawny kid of "Slumdog Millionaire" has steadily grown into a singularly intense and sensitive leading man. It's a transformation that, for anyone who missed "Lion,""The Personal History of David Copperfield" or "The Green Knight," may be especially jarring in watching Mr. Patel's new film, "Monkey Man."

Like "Slumdog Millionaire," the film is set in Mumbai and has a touch of fable to it. But in tone and texture, it could hardly be more different. Bathed in blood and fury, "Monkey Man" is one gory coming out party for Mr. Patel, who also directed and co-wrote the film. He kicks so much butt in this movie — at one point he punches a punch — that it's enough to make you wonder if the search for the new James Bond ought to be redirected.

"Monkey Man," produced by Jordan Peele, is aiming for something grittier, though — more in Bruce Lee territory or the neighborhood of Park Chan-wook's "Oldboy" — wild, kinetic places to be where martial-arts action turns mythic and feverish. At its best moments, "Monkey Man" does that tradition justice.

But at all its moments, the movie is a convincing display of Mr. Patel's still-expanding power and tenacity as a performer.

"Monkey Man" is most explosive in its blistering first half-hour. Mr. Patel's character, credited only as Kid, fights while wearing a gorilla mask in an underground boxing ring. Our first image of him is of his head, in that mask, hitting the canvas hard.

These scenes, presided over by Sharlto Copley's ring leader, have a masochist edge to them, as does Kid's corresponding efforts to get closer to a den of power and corruption housed in the high-rise King's Club. We don't know initially the reasons for his obsession; he's a mysterious, single-minded figure compelled by hellbent revenge.

And we watch with curiosity as he works his way into the building as a dishwasher hired by manager Queenie (Ashwini Kalsekar) and, soon thereafter, gains a promotion to waiter to get himself up to the penthouse. His focus is on the police chief Rana (Sikandar Kher) and the build-up to their brutal first encounter is a swiftly edited, kinetic swirl. It fails, sending Kid on a clattering cascade down the building and beyond. Out of the frying pan, into the prostitution den with the ax-wielding maniac.

But while "Monkey Man" is thrillingly enigmatic at first, it's overly leaden with exposition once it settles in. To its credit, the movie has other things on its mind. It opens with the Hindu epic poem "Ramayana," in which the deity Hanuman mistakes the sun for a mango and has his powers stripped.

"Monkey Man" is sketched symbolically against the story of Hanuman but set in a sordid, contemporary Mumbai (technically it's a fictional city named Yatana). The syndicate Kid is trying to infiltrate ultimately leads to a religious leader (Makarand Deshpande). "Monkey Man," which Netflix dropped before it was picked up by Mr. Peele and Universal, is pointedly political in its fictionalized echoes of modern, Modi-led India.

While Kid recovers with the help of the sage Alpha (Vipin Sharma) and a group of transgender women in hiding, these elements are slowly brought from a simmer to a boil. "Monkey Man" makes room for cutaways to TV news reports (some footage comes from real demonstrations) and copious flashbacks to a violent land grab from Kid's childhood, during which his mother Neela (Adithi Kalkunte) was brutally murdered.

The real-world metaphors and Hindu contexts of "Monkey Man" add to the film's potency but aren't always smoothly incorporated. This is a movie that namechecks "John Wick," too. And it's more successful in its frenetic fight choreography leading up to a bloody third-act showdown imbued with the rage of class uprising.

But regardless of any incongruities, "Monkey Man" makes for a forceful directorial debut from Mr. Patel. More than anything else, he brings a compelling gravity to a film that is quite serious about getting seriously brutal.

TELEVISION

Ditzy, distracted and discerning

By Alicia Rancilio
ASSOCIATED PRESS



CBS VIA ASSOCIATED PRESS

Carrie Preston stars as Elsbeth Tascioni, a keenly intelligent, easily distracted lawyer, in "Elsbeth." Ms. Preston previously played the character in two other series, "The Good Wife" and "The Good Fight."

Preston reprises quirky attorney character full time in 'Elsbeth'

It took about 14 years, but Carrie Preston is finally playing her dream role full time.

Ms. Preston stars in the new CBS procedural "Elsbeth," as Elsbeth Tascioni, a gifted lawyer with a sharp eye for detail who is easily distracted. She also possesses joie de vivre and does not put on airs. Make no mistake, though: Elsbeth is usually the smartest person in the room.

Viewers first met Elsbeth at the end of season one of "The Good Wife," which starred Julianna Margulies as a political wife who restarts her law career when her husband (Chris Noth) is arrested. Elsbeth was brought in as an attorney for Mr. Noth's character, Peter Florrick.

"I knew from the show that when they would hit on a guest actor that they liked or a character that they liked, they would bring her or him back," Ms. Preston recalled recently. "I didn't hear anything for a whole season. And I thought, 'OK, well, maybe that was that,' because I wasn't in season two at all. Then they called back and we all hit our stride at that point. We found the chemistry with the writing and the acting."

Ms. Preston won a guest actor Emmy Award in 2013 for her portrayal of the character on "The Good Wife." Elsbeth also appeared in multiple episodes of its spinoff for Paramount+ called "The Good Fight," starring Christine Baranski and Audra McDonald.

"Every time I played Elsbeth, I played her like it was the last time because I was always a guest. I played her 19 times over those two shows. That's really only a couple times a year if you spread it out. The opportunity to play her all the time is a dream come true," said Ms. Preston.

Michelle and Robert King, co-creators of "The Good Wife," "The Good Fight" and "Elsbeth," have maintained a good relationship with Ms. Preston over the years. Besides playing Elsbeth, she directed episodes of their Showtime thriller drama "Your Honor" and "The Good Fight."

The Kings were always aware the Elsbeth character was a fan favorite, but it took a binge-watch of "Columbo" in the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic to prompt them to create a show for Ms. Preston.

"We realized what's fun about 'Columbo' is him being underestimated and him kind of not being able to control how smart he was," Mr. King said.

"That's Elsbeth," Ms. King said.

"Elsbeth" debuted in February, took a break, and has returned this month with two new episodes. The show will air a new episode weekly into May.

We meet Elsbeth now, still an attorney, but she has left Chicago for a job in New York helping the NYPD with their investigations.

"We are doing a procedural, so the writing does have to honor the case of the week [format]," Ms. Preston said. "I'm finding it interesting to see how Elsbeth is in that situation. We're used to seeing her in a courtroom. We're not seeing that at all here."

Aside from being set in a new city, "Elsbeth" is written for a broader network audience and avoids the kind of political storylines that drove "The Good Fight" in particular.

"'The Good Fight' was such a ripped-from-the-headlines, overtly political show, which got harder and harder as the world became more and more complicated," said Jonathan Tolins, an executive producer and writer on "The Good Fight" who is now the showrunner of "Elsbeth." "It's fun now to take [Ms. Preston's] character and throw her into something that's less dire and a little bit more escapist and fun."

It's enjoyable to watch Elsbeth catch people by surprise with her intelligence but that's confounded because she's a woman.

"Elsbeth has the added advantage of the misogyny that comes of lower expectations just because she's a woman and sort of a ditzy woman," Mr. King said. "Her ditzy-ness is not an act, in our minds. It's kind of connected to her problem-solving."

"I like to say that she's sort of putting everything in the Rolodex of her brain, because she doesn't know when she's going to need to go get that file out and use it," Ms. Preston said.

One of the hallmarks of "The Good Wife" and "The Good Fight" were recurring characters with distinct personalities who played lawyers and judges through the run of the shows. Fans were often tickled when a familiar face was brought back.

"Elsbeth," Ms. Preston said, will do the same.

"We will start seeing some repeats of our little stable of detectives, and they all have wonderful personalities," she said.

A number of known actors have also been cast in guest spots for the show's first season, including Jesse Tyler Ferguson, Blair Underwood, Keegan-Michael Key, Retta and Gina Gershon.

Quarter-century marriage is an intimacy-free zone

ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
DEAR ABBY

DEAR ABBY: I'm in a sexless 25-year marriage. It was not always this way, but any intimacy has been over for more than a decade. My wife's libido has waned, which I understand. What she does do is continually bring up issues about me from years ago as if they were yesterday.

I have my faults, like lack of communication and shutting down, which I have objectively thought about a great deal and tried to make things right. I'm not violent, I don't use drugs or abuse alcohol. She remains adamant in her distrust of me and punishes me by withholding all forms of intimacy.

We attended marriage counseling, where I listened to her and acknowledged my issues for redress. She, on the other hand, justifies her actions and behaviors. She has her own failings but doesn't want to hear how much her actions have hurt me. She also didn't listen to the counselor and will not hold herself accountable.

I feel so lonely. She thinks a lack of intimacy is fine for a marriage, and this is frustrating to me. I have brought this up to her numerous times, but she will not be moved. I could use your counsel on this. — LONELY MAN IN GEORGIA

DEAR LONELY MAN: You tried counseling; counseling failed. Lack of intimacy (of any kind) is not "fine" for a marriage. Call an attorney and set yourself free.

DEAR ABBY: During my 30s (I am now mid-70s), I did some nude modeling for several reputable photographers, which resulted in some lovely portraits. A few of them have been framed and hang on my bedroom wall.

My family members are aware of them, but they are very religious (which I am not), so I don't know how to dispose of them. Should I try to sell them, and if so, how? Should I bequeath them to someone, or should they be left for my estate executor to deal with? What to do? — PORTRAITS IN THE SOUTH

DEAR PORTRAITS: Definitely discuss this with your executor well before the need arises. If the photographers are well-known, go online and find out if there's a market for their work. Offer the portraits for sale and see if there is any interest. You could also bequeath them to an "open-minded" relative or friend. I wish you luck.

DEAR ABBY: In a response to "Ganged Up On" (Dec. 23), you stated that it is against the law to hit a child in California. It was in response to a woman whose mother-in-law spanked her grandchild. I was born in California and lived there more than 50 years, and I believe you misinterpreted the penal code.

It is not illegal to spank in California. It IS illegal to use excessive force, or to cause traumatic injury when doing it. I don't personally believe that a child should be hit, but it is not "illegal." In fact, corporal punishment, not abuse, is legal in every state in the U.S. — DENISE E. IN NEVADA

DEAR DENISE: Mea culpa. I stand corrected. You are not the only reader I heard from after printing that answer. Thank you for straightening me out about this.

ANDREWS MCMEEL SYNDICATION

HOLIDAY MATHIS
HOROSCOPE

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (April 10). Welcome to a year of boundless creativity and a belief in yourself to match. As you put what you make into the world, you'll attract friends, customers and collaborators. A life-changing project is part of the fun. More highlights: joining groups and teams, a breakthrough in your personal life and six important sales. Scorpio and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 2, 14, 29, 19 and 6.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You have the ability to captivate people, and it comes with a switch you can turn on and off at will. You may do this unconsciously today. Once you decide what you want, your charisma will kick in to assist.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You like to feel as though you're prepared for anything, and you like that even better when it doesn't require a lot of extra gadgets and gear. You'll find ways to ready yourself with knowledge, which won't bog you down.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). First you'll handle things, then you'll check and double-check to make sure things are wrapped up. The next stop is freedom, levity and a feeling that the world is wide open to you.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Because you care about your work, you'll end up putting in more time than the others. As long as you enjoy yourself, are proud of your contribution and of what you learn in the process, those hours are well spent.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). While a quick internet search can produce millions of answers and solutions, it's still important to reach out to real people, not for what they know but for what they'll actually do to help.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). People may ask you to explain your work, walk them through your thought process or reveal some of your inner world. But your mind is your own. Sharing is entirely optional. Mystery looks good on you, too.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). If you really want to be sure your life transcends the mundane, make the magic happen in the way magicians do. Learn how to build the illusion, put your own spin on it and practice until it's easy.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You sense the needs and feelings of others. You don't have to say what you're thinking to convey the messages that exist in micro-expressions and subtle body language.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Be discerning about where you invest your energy today. Many options won't give you what you need. If you're not quite clear about what you want, start with reviewing what you like and dislike.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Even if nothing goes to plan, a good outcome is still a possibility. If both the plan and the outcome are a bust, the lesson and subsequent course of action just might be best thing that ever happened to you — all reasons to go for it.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Love oozes all over things like reason and order. It flips priorities and changes the color scheme of life's scenery. It's uncontrollable, unpredictable and it never stops growing. Love is messy. All the best things in life are.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Sometimes growth means getting more, but these days you'll grow by having less. Spiritual and emotional growth will involve letting go of stuff you own in favor of owning more of yourself.

CREATORS.COM

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

Nationals starter Gray has an injured pitching elbow

SAN FRANCISCO | Washington Nationals opening day starter Josiah Gray went on the 15-day injured list Tuesday with a right elbow and forearm problem, among of a series of pitchers hurt around the majors early this season.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Gray, a right-hander who was an NL All-Star last season, is 0-2 with a 14.04 ERA so far in 2024. The IL move was retroactive to Saturday.

"Honestly, I'm embarrassed to come out here and do that for the guys. It doesn't feel good. It doesn't sit right with me," Gray said after that game. "I know that I deserve better. They deserve better."

He was replaced on the roster by Joan Adon, who was recalled from Triple-A Rochester so he could start Tuesday night's game against the San Francisco Giants.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Calipari departs Kentucky after 15 years as coach

LEXINGTON, KY. | John Calipari is stepping down as Kentucky's men's basketball coach after 15 years, saying Tuesday that the "program probably needs to hear another voice" amid reports that he's closing in on a deal with Arkansas to take over that Southeastern Conference program.

Calipari posted a video on X, formerly known as Twitter, in which he said that after talking with his wife, Ellen, he decided a change was needed. He added, "We've loved it here, but we think it's time for us to step away and step away completely from the program."

Calipari leaves a Wildcats program he guided to the 2012 NCAA championship among four Final Four appearances. He went 410-123 in 15 seasons. The past few seasons have been disappointing by Kentucky standards, with a 1-3 mark in its last three NCAA Tournament trips, including first-round losses to No. 14 seed Oakland last month and No. 15 seed Saint Peter's two years ago, despite being a top-three seed both times.

NCAA women's final viewership outdraws men's title game

For the first time, the NCAA women's basketball championship outdrew the men.

Connecticut's 75-60 victory over Purdue in Monday night's men's final on TBS and TNT averaged 14.82 million, according to Nielsen. That was not enough to surpass the 18.87 million who watched South Carolina defeat Caitlin Clark and Iowa in Sunday afternoon's women's final on ABC and ESPN.

Monday night's audience was a 4% increase over last year's final between the Huskies and San Diego State on CBS. The number likely dropped off during the second half when Connecticut took control to become the first repeat champion since Florida in 2007.

The two men's semifinal games averaged 12.8 million. Connecticut-Alabama attracted 14.18 million and the game between Purdue and North Carolina State averaged 11.45 million. Friday night's women's semifinal games averaged 10.8 million, with the Iowa-UConn game averaging 14.2 million.

The 67 games of the men's tournament across CBS, TBS, TNT and truTV averaged 9.9 million viewers, a 3% increase over last year. This year's tournament benefited from more blue bood and power conference programs advancing beyond the first weekend.

SOCCER

Champions League matches go ahead despite terror threat

NYON, SWITZERLAND | This week's Champions League games are going ahead as scheduled despite an Islamic State terror threat, the governing body of European soccer said Tuesday.

Several posters circulated on social media alleging to be from the Al-Azaim Foundation — a media arm of ISIS-K — called for attacks at the four stadiums hosting the matches this week. The Associated Press could not verify the authenticity of the posts.

"UEFA is aware of alleged terrorist threats made towards this week's UEFA Champions League matches and is closely liaising with the authorities at the respective venues," UEFA said in a statement. "All matches are planned to go ahead as scheduled with appropriate security arrangements in place."

There are two matches scheduled to be held in Madrid. Real Madrid hosted Manchester City on Tuesday and Atletico Madrid welcomes Borussia Dortmund on Wednesday.

From wire dispatches and staff reports.

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

Cowser knocks in four runs in Orioles' win over Red Sox

By Kyle Hightower
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BOSTON | Colton Cowser drove in four runs, Corbin Burnes allowed two hits over seven innings and the Baltimore Orioles beat the Red Sox 7-1 on Tuesday in Boston's home opener.

Cowser had a pair of RBI doubles, the second driving in two runs in the fourth to break a 1-1 tie. He added a sacrifice fly in the eighth to help the Orioles stop a two-game skid. Burnes (2-0) struck out six and walked two, giving up Tyler O'Neill's sixth homer of the season in the first inning. O'Neill began the season by homering for his fifth straight opening day, a major league record.

"He hung a breaking ball to O'Neill, but besides that — two hits through seven innings — total command in a tight game," Orioles manager Brandon Hyde said. "Punched out a bunch. That's No. 1 starter stuff right there."

Adley Rutschman, Anthony Santander and Cedric Mullins added RBI singles for the Orioles.

Baltimore finished with 13 hits and scored its first four runs with two outs.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Orioles' Colton Cowser (17) celebrates with Cedric Mullins and Austin Hays after beating the Red Sox in Boston's home opener Tuesday. Cowser drove in four runs and had two doubles in a 7-1 win. Corbin Burnes struck out six over seven innings.

The Orioles were 8 for 15 with runners in scoring position and their pitchers retired Boston's final 18 batters. Baltimore managed 10 hits in dropping the final two games of its prior series against Pittsburgh.

"We haven't really been able to string a lot of quality at-bats in a row. Today we were able to kind of move that train a little bit," Cowser said.

Brayan Bello (1-1) was charged with three runs — one earned — and four hits over 5⅓ innings for Boston, which opened with a 7-3 West Coast trip. Left fielder Jarren Duran dropped an easy popup by Mullins with two outs in the fourth, and Cowser followed with his two-run double. Cowser hit his other RBI double in the second.

"If I make that play, we get out of the inning and then none of the other things happen," Duran said.

Red Sox shortstop Trevor Story will have what is likely season-ending surgery on his dislocated left shoulder and right-handed pitcher Nick Pivetta has a strained a right flexor, the latest in a spate of elbow injuries among pitchers.

Projected recovery time for Story is six months. They were each placed on the injured list.

The Orioles will start left-hander Cole Irvin (0-1, 7.20 ERA) on Wednesday. Kutter Crawford (0-0, 0.84) moves up his start a day for Boston.

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tomorrow, we'll start talking about what the roster's going to look like. Obviously we graduate some players. We're going to lose a couple potentially to the NBA early entry."

Hurley, 51, will be a hot item on the coaching market over the next few weeks, particularly if the Kentucky job comes open as expected. John Calipari is reportedly in talks with Arkansas to become their next coach, which would lead to a high-profile vacancy.

But Hurley didn't sound like a man who wanted to load up a moving truck anytime soon.

"Yeah, yeah, I don't think that's a concern," Hurley said laughing. "My wife, you should have her answer that."

At this point, it's understandable why Hurley is comfortable in Storrs. He was rewarded after last year's title with a $32.1 million, six-year deal that could keep him on campus through 2029.

It wouldn't be a surprise if another raise is in the near future.

Despite Hurley's hard-charging personality, his players don't seem to mind. He's been able to attract five-star recruits and also has a knack for finding mid-major transfers who can play at an elite level.

Castle, a five-star talent who could have played just about anywhere in the country, said one of the reasons he picked Connecticut is because he wanted to learn from Hurley's intensity.

Spencer played his first three seasons at Loyola (Maryland) before transferring to Rutgers last season.

With one year of eligibility remaining, Hurley coaxed Spencer to UConn, and it was a perfect fit.

"We said 'Cam, if you don't join us, we're a top 10, top 15 team. If you do join us, we could go back-to-back,'" Hurley said.

Hurley joined an elite group of coaches Monday, becoming the first coach to lead a school to back-to-back titles since Billy Donovan accomplished the feat in 2006 and 2007. Others who have done it — UCLA's John Wooden and Duke's Mike Krzyzewski — are some of the sport's biggest icons.

But Hurley said he's still chasing some of his mentors, particularly his dad. Bob Hurley Sr. won more than two dozen state championships at St. Anthony High School in Jersey City, New Jersey, producing dozens of Division I college players in the process. He was at State Farm Stadium on Monday night to watch his son clinch another college title.

"Even after back-to-back for me, I'm still just a worse version of him," Hurley said.

Then he grinned.

"A little bit worse," he added. "I'm getting better, and I'm coming for him."



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Connecticut coach Dan Hurley is expected to be a hot commodity on the coaching market over the next few weeks after winning his second straight national title Monday. Hurley said he didn't think leaving Connecticut was a concern.

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— the likes of Jokic, Gilgeous-Alexander, Doncic and Antetokounmpo. "They all deserve to win. It's just unfortunate that only one person has to win."

James Harden was the last U.S.-born player to win MVP, and that was in 2018. International players have gotten 456 of a possible 503 first-place MVP votes since (there are 100 voters, and there was an extra "fan vote" in three of those years). That's 91% of first-place nods going to international players in that span, and don't expect this year to be any different. Every first-place vote in 2022 and 2023 went to an international player.

And with the playoffs fast approaching, those international names are going to be in the brightest part of the spotlight once again. Jokic and the Nuggets have a title to defend. Antetokounmpo and the Bucks have a chance to shake off a frankly disappointing second half of the regular season. Doncic and the Mavericks are back in the playoffs after last season's collapse. Gilgeous-Alexander and the Thunder are going to have home-court in Round 1; not bad for a franchise that some likely figured was still in rebuilding mode entering the year. Orlando has the inside track on a top-four seed in the Eastern Conference, and Franz Wagner — one of the reasons Germany won the Basketball World Cup last summer — is a big part of the Magic surge.

"Players in this league — not referring to All-Stars but overall now — represent 45 countries and are roughly 30% of this league, and a number that's continuing to grow, including, of course, some of the very best players, MVP-quality players in this league," NBA Commissioner Adam Silver said at the All-Star break.

Silver told CNN a couple weeks ago that the league is kicking around new ideas to try to fix the All-Star Game, and one of the notions is again the concept of a U.S. vs. The World game. He wants a competitive game; players listened to those pleas and still played absolutely no defense in this year's game at Indianapolis, where the 200-point mark by a team got crossed for the first time. So, it's time for a new idea, and playing into the depth of the international star roster is a solid one.

"Look at the magnitude of the pool of international players coming into this league," Silver said. "Look at the amount of basketball that's being played on a global basis ... it's remarkable to watch what these guys now physically are able to do on the floor."

And it has been for some time. This was always David Stern's vision when he was commissioner, a global league, a global game with global stars. The NBA has it, maybe at a higher level than ever. That'll be evident in the playoffs. That'll be evident in the award voting, too.

GOLF

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can't create rivalries because everyone is rich and happy. Even Brooks Koepka and Bryson DeChambeau seem to like each other now.

What golf lacks — and what it might need — is a dominant player.

"I think it would be good for the game," Scheffler said. "I think anytime you have a figure that kind of dominates ... like I think of like the NBA. You look at Steph Curry for those years where the Warriors were winning a bunch, people would say they got tired of it. But at the end of the day, people were still showing up and watching because he was incredible to watch, and you want to watch greatness when you're out there."

Golf hasn't seen that since Woods, and then it's a matter of deciding exactly when he stopped ruling the sport, at least inside the ropes. From a sheer performance standpoint, his days of dominance ended when he ran into that fire hydrant around Thanksgiving 2009 and shocking tales of a sordid private life came gushing out.

Yes, he returned to No. 1 and held it for more than year in 2013, when he won five times and was voted PGA Tour player of the year for the 11th time. But thanks to four back surgeries, it wasn't until 2019 that he ended an 11-year drought in the majors.

Dominant play is different from appeal. Even now, with a body so broken that Woods has played only 24 holes in one tournament going into the Masters, it was big news that his plane was tracked flying to Augusta in April.

The top five players in golf combined don't match his appeal. No need to look any further than the PGA Tour's contrived "Player Impact Program" that doled out $15 million to Woods when he was hardly even playing.

There was never another amateur like Bobby Jones. There still hasn't been another major champion as prolific as Jack Nicklaus. There hasn't been anyone worthy of calling "The King" since Arnold Palmer. And, as Scheffler said, there probably won't be another Woods.

And by the look of it, there won't be a dominant player any time soon.

Justin Thomas, in his 10th year on the PGA Tour, was asked who he considered golf's most dominant player during his time on tour.

He mentioned Johnson and McIlroy. He was confident in adding himself to the list based on his 2017 season when he won five times, including his first major.

"I fall into this all the time with other sports," Thomas said. "It's a recency bias. It's whatever happens most recently. That's the only thing you have in your head."

Jordan Spieth would have ticked that box in 2015 when he won the Masters and U.S. Open, missed the British Open playoff by one putt and was runner-up in the PGA Championship. Jason Day had no visible weakness in his game when he won seven times in 10 months, including the PGA Championship and The Players Championship.

They come and go.

Scheffler would appear to have staying power, evident as much by his tee-to-green play as the enormous lead in the world ranking. For how much longer?

Johnson looked unbeatable in 2017 until he fell down a flight of stairs on the eve of the Masters. McIlroy won the last two majors of 2014 and was still climbing until he decided to play soccer with friends and tore ligaments in his ankle.

It might be wise for Scheffler to go easy on pickleball.

"You have had a lot of guys that go through stretches," Scheffler said. "You had Jordan go through his stretch. You had a year where JT won five times. You had those years where Rory was winning majors by a bunch of shots.

"Nobody's really been able to have the longevity that Tiger had."

PIMLICO

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liability for operating costs. The measure was amended to use horse racing purse accounts to cover operating losses.

"I'm glad to bet on ourselves, but there's a reason that the industry has been struggling, and we can only do so much," said state Senate President Bill Ferguson, a Baltimore Democrat. "It's not a blank check, and so this caps the liability for the state."

Maryland lawmakers approved a plan in 2020 to rebuild the track, but it never got off the ground. The new plan increases the amount of state bonds to be used from $375 million to $400 million. The plan also calls for a training facility, with details to be determined.

The state has been wrestling with what to do to restore the old racetrack for decades. Aptly nicknamed Old Hilltop, the track opened in 1870. It's where Man o' War, Seabiscuit, Secretariat and many others pranced to the winner's circle.

But its age has long been a concern. In 2019, the Maryland Jockey Club closed off nearly 7,000 grandstand seats, citing the "safety and security of all guests and employees." The Preakness has struggled to draw pre-pandemic attendance numbers in recent years, down to 65,000 people in 2023 for Friday and Saturday compared to more than 180,000 for the same days four years earlier.

At the end of the legislative session last year, the Maryland Thoroughbred Racetrack Operating Authority was created and tasked with taking another look at options, and it made recommendations in January to invest in Pimlico to take on a greater role in holding races.

The horse racing industry has long played a big role in Maryland culture. The racing industry and other equine industries have been a cornerstone of Maryland agriculture, as well as an integral part of preserving green space. The equine industry has an estimated $2 billion direct economic impact on the state.

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COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Hurley's sights set on third straight title for Connecticut in age of NIL, transfers

By David Brandt
ASSOCIATED PRESS

GLENDALE, ARIZ. | Dan Hurley and the Connecticut Huskies proved that even in the age of NIL and rampant player transfers, it's possible to build a program capable of winning back-to-back national titles.

A few minutes after cutting down the nets on Monday night, the coach was already thinking about a three-peat.

"We're going to maintain a championship culture," Hurley said. "We're bringing in some very talented high school freshmen. Our returning players, through player development, will take a big jump. We'll strategically add through the portal.

"I don't think that we're going anywhere."

Hurley's confidence is understandable considering the Huskies did basically the same thing before this season. They lost their top scorers from the 2023 championship team — Adama Sanogo and Jordan Hawkins — before reloading with players like Cam Spencer and Stephon Castle who helped them beat Purdue 75-60 in the title game of the NCAA Tournament on Monday night.

Another overhaul will be needed.

Spencer and Tristen Newton are out of college eligibility, while Donovan Clingan and Castle are potential lottery picks in the NBA draft. Hurley already had the potential scenarios running through his head.

"We'll enjoy this for a couple days," Hurley said. "On the flight home

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ASSOCIATED PRESS

Connecticut guard Stephon Castle greets fans after the Huskies beat Purdue to win the NCAA national title on Monday. Castle, a potential lottery pick, transferred to Connecticut because he wanted to learn from coach Dan Hurley's intensity.

GOLF

Dominance has evaded golf since Woods era

Scheffler's stardom may not endure

By Doug Ferguson
ASSOCIATED PRESS

AUGUSTA, GA. | Golf after the peak years of Tiger Woods is just like it was before that "Hello, world" moment when he arrived.

There was no shortage of talent or even rivalries.

No dominant figure, either.

Nick Faldo and Greg Norman brought a global focus to golf for about a decade until Woods arrived. Norman spent more time at No. 1 in the world; Faldo won three times as many majors (6-2). The American hope was Fred Couples. No one could match his cool and charisma, but Couples was no match for a balky back that limited his potential.



Woods

Woods, of course, changed everything. His appeal and his dominance spiked television ratings, which in turn spiked prize money. Whether it was 142 consecutive cuts, winning a U.S. Open by 15 shots or holding all four majors at the same time, it was unlike anything golf had seen.

"I don't know if we'll ever see anything like that again in the game of golf," said Scottie Scheffler, the latest version of golf's best player.

Scheffler is on the verge of becoming only the third player since Woods to hold the No. 1 ranking for more than a full year, joining Rory McIlroy (2014-15) and Dustin Johnson (2017-18). That speaks volumes to the parity at the top.

Scheffler is among 10 players who have been No. 1 in the world since Woods was last there on May 11, 2014.

There was potential for a rivalry with Jon Rahm until the Spaniard left for LIV Golf and Saudi money. LIV Golf

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NBA

Spanning the globe



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nuggets center Nikola Jokic is likely to be the NBA's MVP this season and extend the record streak to six consecutive years in which a foreign-born player wins that award.

NBA's impact internationally to be evident in the playoffs, award voting

By Tim Reynolds
ASSOCIATED PRESS

The voting hasn't taken place yet, though it's fairly obvious that Denver's Nikola Jokic will be the NBA's MVP this season and therefore extend the record streak to six consecutive years in which a foreign-born player wins that trophy.

That's not the only international trend that will be continuing in award season.

Unless New York's Jalen Brunson averages at least 101 points per game this week, which seems unlikely, the scoring champion will be Dallas' Luka Doncic. Sacramento's Domantas Sabonis will win the rebounding title over Minnesota's Rudy Gobert, barring some big change in the numbers. Gobert could win defensive player of the year again. San Antonio's Victor Wembanyama will be the blocked-shots champion, plus is a lock for rookie of the year.

Jokic is from Serbia. Doncic is from Slovenia. Sabonis was technically born in the U.S., but hails from a Lithuanian family and represents that country in international play. Wembanyama and Gobert are from France, which will play host to an Olympics that are now less than four months away. Milwaukee's Giannis Antetokounmpo (Greece) and Oklahoma City's Shai Gilgeous-Alexander (Canada) seem certain to be All-NBA picks, probably first-team ones. And it must be noted that Cameroon-born Joel Embiid, who is now an American citizen and likely a U.S. Olympian this summer, was on pace for a scoring title and MVP honors before injuries derailed those quests.

This is not a new thing, of course. Jokic and Antetokounmpo already have NBA titles and MVP trophies. It's only a matter of time before Doncic gets an MVP award. The only U.S.-born player to make first-team All-NBA last season was Boston's Jayson Tatum, and that'll probably be the case again this season even with Embiid ineligible for such an award because of the new NBA rules surrounding participation and a 65-game minimum required for consideration.

"Obviously, all great candidates," Embiid said of the top MVP candidates

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ASSOCIATED PRESS

Maryland lawmakers approved a plan late Monday to rebuild Pimlico Race Course in Baltimore. The measure would use $400 million in state bonds to rebuild the home of the Preakness Stakes and calls for transferring Pimlico to a newly formed nonprofit.

HORSE RACING

Maryland approves Pimlico track's rebuild

By Brian Witte
ASSOCIATED PRESS

ANNAPOLIS | Maryland lawmakers approved a plan to rebuild Baltimore's storied but antiquated Pimlico Race Course and transfer the track to state control in the waning hours of the state's legislative session on Monday.

The measure would use $400 million in state bonds to rebuild the home of the second jewel of horse racing's Triple Crown, the Preakness Stakes.

The legislation also calls for transferring Pimlico from the Stronach Group, which is the current owner of Pimlico and nearby Laurel Park, to a newly formed nonprofit that would operate under the state.

The 105-32 vote in the Maryland House sends the bill to Gov. Wes Moore, who has expressed support for it.

"We think it's important to not just make sure that we're protecting an industry that means a lot to this state, not just in terms of its history but in terms of its future, but also this is an important bill for the community," Moore, a Democrat, told reporters earlier in the day.

Under the plan, the Preakness would relocate to Laurel Park in 2026 while the new facility is being built, before returning to Pimlico, likely in 2027. The temporary move would come as the third Triple Crown race, the Belmont Stakes, is scheduled to return to Belmont Park from a two-year hiatus at Saratoga Race Course while the New York track undergoes a $455 million reconstruction.

The bill, which was introduced late in the session, faced a shaky path through the legislature. Some lawmakers were concerned about the state assuming

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