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Democracy Dies in Darkness

TUESDAY, MAY 14, 2024 • \$3

La. may list abortion pills as 'dangerous'

State lawmakers move to classify two drugs in same category as opioids

BY EMILY WAX-THIBODEAUX

Louisiana could become the first state in the country to categorize mifepristone and misoprostol — the drugs used to induce an abortion — as controlled dangerous substances, threatening incarceration and fines if an individual possesses the pills without a valid prescription or outside of professional practice.

Legislators in Baton Rouge added the provision as a last-minute amendment to a Senate bill that would criminalize an abortion if someone gives a pregnant woman the pills without her consent, a scenario of "coerced criminal abortion" that nearly occurred with one senator's sister.

A pregnant woman obtaining the two drugs "for her own consumption" would not be at risk of prosecution. But, with the exception of a health-care practitioner, a person helping her get the pills would be.

Louisiana already bans both medication and surgical abortions except to save a patient's life or because a pregnancy is "medically futile." Lawmakers just rejected adding exceptions for teenagers under 17 who become pregnant through rape or incest.

The amendment would list mifepristone and misoprostol under the state's Uniform Controlled Dangerous Substances Law, which regulates depressants, opioids and other drugs that can be highly addictive. It elicited a strong reaction from

SEE LOUISIANA ON A4

Anti-Trump ads: Super PAC focuses on abortion access. A4

Bowser's approval rate under 50%, poll finds

BY MICHAEL BRICE-SADDLER, MEAGAN FLYNN AND EMILY GUSKIN

D.C. Mayor Muriel E. Bowser's approval rating has dropped below a majority for the first time in her nine-year tenure, a Washington Post-Schar School poll finds, as residents give her negative marks for her efforts to reduce crime while growing increasingly critical of her handling of other major issues, such as addressing homelessness and improving the city's public schools.

Fewer than half of D.C. residents — 46 percent — say they approve of Bowser's overall job performance, a decrease from 58 percent in a 2022 Post poll and 67 percent in both 2019 and 2017. And even though Bowser (D) sailed to reelection in 2022, nearly half (48 percent) of residents say they do not approve of Bowser's performance, compared with 37 percent two years ago, reflective of an uneasy electorate as the mayor seeks to carry out banner third-term goals that include boosting D.C.'s population by thousands, particularly downtown.

The Post-Schar School poll, SEE BOWSER ON A6

Report: Former top aide to mayor had harassed a third woman. B1



HEIDI LEVINE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Israelis mark Memorial Day on Monday at a memorial in Tel Aviv for victims killed and kidnapped by Hamas in its Oct. 7 attack.

Israel grieves, remembers its dead

Memorial Day, already a sacred and solemn national holiday, becomes even more so after Oct. 7

BY SHIRA RUBIN

TEL AVIV — Israelis gathered at military cemeteries and memorial sites across the country on Monday, laying wreaths, lighting remembrance candles and collectively remembering the lives lost and changed since Oct. 7, the deadliest assault in Israeli history.

In a country where a mandatory draft applies to nearly all 18-year-olds, Memorial Day is a sacrosanct national holiday. It comes a week after Remembrance Day, in which Israel commemorates the 6 million Jews who perished in the Holocaust, and at sundown is followed by Independence Day, which is usually filled with street festivities and fireworks.

"It feels more personal this year," said Gavriella Lazarus, a 26-year-old private sector intelligence analyst from Tel Aviv, who said she knew victims of Palestinian terrorist attacks in the past, but never on this scale, and never in the context of an event like Oct. 7, when Hamas-led forces stormed Israel's barrier fence and brutally rampaged through 22 communities, killing 1,200 people and dragging 253 more into Gaza.

SEE ISRAEL ON A12



AFF/GETTY IMAGES

Food is distributed Monday at a public kitchen in central Gaza. Israeli forces' advance into Rafah has prompted 360,000 people to flee the southern city, the U.N. said.

Food crisis: Airstrikes and bulldozers are destroying Gaza's agricultural infrastructure. A14



MICHAEL ROBINSON CHÁVEZ FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Workers set off explosives to free trapped cargo ship

A salvage crew used tiny detonations to try to remove pieces of the fallen Francis Scott Key Bridge from atop the container ship Dali, seven weeks after its deadly crash. Authorities said they are preparing for the ship to make an imminent trip back to shore in the Port of Baltimore. Story, B1

Publishers fear a wipeout as AI reshapes Google search

Generative tool imperils clicks for creators whose businesses rely on them

BY GERRIT DE VYNCK AND CAT ZAKRZEWSKI

Kimber Matherne's thriving food blog draws millions of visitors each month searching for last-minute dinner ideas.

But the mother of three says decisions made at Google, more than 2,000 miles from her home in the Florida panhandle, are threatening her business. About 40 percent of visits to her blog, Easy Family Recipes, come through the search engine, which has for more than two decades served as the clearinghouse of the internet, sending users to hundreds of millions of websites each day.

As the tech giant gears up for Google I/O, its annual developer conference, on Tuesday, creators like Matherne are worried about the expanding reach of its new search tool that incorporates arti-

ficial intelligence. The product, dubbed "Search Generative Experience," or SGE, directly answers queries with complex, multi-paragraph replies that push links to other websites further down the page, where they're less likely to be seen.

The shift stands to shake the very foundations of the web.

The rollout threatens the survival of the millions of creators and publishers who rely on the service for traffic. Some experts argue the addition of AI will boost the tech giant's already tight grip on the internet, ultimately ushering in a system where information is provided by just a handful of large companies.

"Their goal is to make it as easy as possible for people to find the information they want," Matherne said. "But if you cut out the people who are the lifeblood of creating that information — that have the real human connection to it — then that's a disservice to the world."

Google calls its AI answers SEE GOOGLE ON A20

AI road map: Senators to unveil guide to impact on workers. A8

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Space race The Pentagon is growing concerned that a key partner in launching satellites will not be able to meet its needs to counter China and build its arsenal. A17

RFK site Sen. Daines (R-Mont.) says he will block legislation for use of the land unless the Commanders honor the old logo's history. D1

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As cancer haunted a writer's family, they discovered a fatal inheritance. E1

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