

The Washington Post

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Mostly sunny 66/49 • Tomorrow: Afternoon shower 59/52 B6 Democracy Dies in Darkness FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 2024 • \$3

Maryland community grapples with the sudden, surreal loss of a landmark and economic artery



PHOTOS BY ANDRÉ CHUNG FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

‘That bridge was a symbol of us’

BY JOE HEIM
IN DUNDALK, MD.

The people of this blue-collar town on the north side of what used to be the Francis Scott Key Bridge, now a tangle of metal in the Patapsco River, are still trying to make sense of it all.

How could a 1.6-mile span of steel and concrete, which took five years to build and towered over their community for decades, simply vanish in the night, demolished by a giant, out-of-control cargo ship headed to sea from Baltimore Harbor?

In the search for answers, there will be multiple investigations, voluminous reports and complex litigation. Experts will delve into such issues as ship maintenance, structural engineering and occupational safety related to the March 26 disaster, which occurred shortly before 1:30 a.m. and killed six Latino immigrants working on the bridge deck.



The financial consequences of the collapse will be immense. But what of the emotional blow — the sudden, surreal disruption for the residents of Dundalk, where an enduring landmark, an economic artery that shaped the town's horizon and helped fuel its aspirations for 47 years, was ripped away in a matter of seconds?

“It’s like a death — a friend is gone,” said Rhonda Green Randolph, 59, who recalls the bridge being built when she was a child and now can’t bring herself to look at the wreckage in person.

“There’s a real emptiness in the sky,” said Baltimore County Executive John Olszewski (D), 41, who grew up here and remembers it was a rite of passage for teenagers to drive across the span after getting their licenses.

SEE DUNDALK ON A8

TOP: Robert and Kristian Hayes and their son, Gage, view the wreckage of the bridge in early April. **LEFT:** Mary Branch is a community elder who has lived in Turner Station for 75 years.

High court poised to reject Trump’s immunity claims

DECISION COULD DELAY HIS D.C. TRIAL

Justices wrestle with ‘writing a rule for the ages’

BY ANN E. MARIMOW

The Supreme Court on Thursday appeared ready to reject Donald Trump’s sweeping claim that he is immune from prosecution on charges of trying to subvert the 2020 election, but in a way that is likely to significantly delay his stalled federal trial in the nation’s capital.

In nearly three hours of oral argument, both conservative and liberal justices grappled with the historic significance of the case, which will set boundaries for presidential power in the future even as it impacts whether Trump faces trial in D.C. before this year’s presidential election — in which

he is the likely Republican nominee.

Trump, who is already on trial this week in a separate New York case involving business records connected to a hush money payment, was known for breaking norms while in the White House. He faces two other criminal cases as well, and is the first former president to be indicted. But again and again on Thursday, members of the high court noted that their decision, expected by late June or early July, will not just affect him.

“We are writing a rule for the ages,” said Justice Neil M. Gorsuch.

SEE IMMUNITY ON A6

A secret deal: Testimony details the Trump-National Enquirer alliance. **A4**

Killing stories: Witness says election, not family, was the motivation. **A5**

Even out of sight, former president still ubiquitous

BY DAN BALZ

From the lofty chambers of the Supreme Court to the gutters of tabloid journalism, Thursday was, once again, a day all about Donald Trump.

THE TAKE He was largely invisible, as he was sequestered in a courtroom in Manhattan. Nonetheless, he was ubiquitous. It is who he is.

Throughout his life, whether as a flamboyant developer, a reality-TV star or a politician who became president, Trump has always found ways to keep the bright lights focused squarely on himself. Good stories or bad stories, it never really mattered. What was always important was to dominate, to be the center of attention, to win the ratings war, to cloud out everyone else.

Rarely has there been a day that underscored that aspect of

his being as much as Thursday. Both the justices on the Supreme Court and the jurors in the Manhattan courtroom were confronted with the alleged misdeeds of the former president. Nothing about either matter cast Trump positively. And yet it is not knowable today whether these proceedings will help or hurt his chances of being elected president again in November.

The nine justices on the high court were asked to answer a historic constitutional question: Is a president immune from criminal prosecution? In the Manhattan courtroom, the issues were far tawdrier, involving hush money paid to an adult-film actress over an alleged affair and the National Enquirer’s catch-and-kill practice designed to stamp out negative stories about Trump ahead of the 2016 election.

SEE TAKE ON A4

N.Y. court overturns Weinstein conviction

BY SAMANTHA CHERY,
MARK BERMAN,
HERB SCRIBNER
AND JANAY KINGSBERRY

Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein’s 2020 rape conviction was overturned Thursday by the New York Court of Appeals, reversing a case that helped launch the #MeToo movement.

The court suggested a retrial, ruling that the original judge had improperly allowed women to testify about allegations that Weinstein was not on trial for.

Arthur Aidala, one of Weinstein’s lawyers, said in a news conference that Thursday was a “great day for America because it instills in us the faith that there is a justice system,” adding that from the beginning, his team “knew that Harvey Weinstein did not get a fair trial.”

The Manhattan district attorney

SEE WEINSTEIN ON A22

Arrests, clashes continue on university campuses



MIKE STEWART/AP

Georgia State Patrol officers detain a protester at Emory University in Atlanta on Thursday, when police disrupted an encampment and faced off with demonstrators while attempting to clear the area.

Tending to a frayed alliance: An HBCU president in Louisiana seeks to help mend Black-Jewish ties. **A10**

In the region: Hundreds of students from area universities gather on the George Washington campus. **B1**

Pro-Palestinian protests persist as college leaders struggle to rein in unrest

BY DAN ROSENZWEIG-ZIFF,
JENNIFER HASSAN,
RICHARD MORGAN
AND KARIN BRULLIARD

Arrests at pro-Palestinian protests that expanded Thursday to colleges across the country brought the total number of people detained in a week of demonstrations to more than 500, with officials struggling to quell the unrest by clearing encampments and closing buildings.

A tumultuous scene and dozens of arrests late Wednesday at the University of Southern California pushed the administration to cancel the school’s main commencement ceremony May 10, citing new safety measures that have been put in place after protests there.

Since April 18, police have detained demonstrators at schools including Emerson College in Boston, New York University, the University of Texas at Austin and Ohio

SEE PROTESTS ON A7

COMMENTARY

In Daniels, Washington hopes it has a QB, savior

BY BARRY SVRLUGA

He walked onto a stage in Detroit in a light blue suit and impossibly sparkly earrings, doing nothing that will be required of him in the future but representing so much to so many just by his presence. There are few more tantalizing characters in any town than a talented quarterback who hasn’t yet taken a snap — and therefore hasn’t thrown an interception or missed a read or lost a game.

Welcome to Washington, Jayden Daniels. All you need to do now is save the city’s favorite franchise.

The Washington Commanders selected Daniels with the second pick in Thursday night’s NFL draft. It was, in so many senses, a widely anticipated move. Dan-

SEE SVRLUGA ON A2

IN THE NEWS

Feeling betrayed A vote by Rep. Victoria Spartz (R-Ind.) against sending aid has upset residents of her Ukrainian hometown. **A14**

U.S. growth slows The economy expanded in the first quarter at an annualized rate of 1.6 percent, a result welcomed by some but one that also raised “stagflation” fears. **A18**

THE NATION

A CDC report detailed an HIV cluster linked to “vampire facials” at an unlicensed spa. **A2**

As bird flu spreads in cows, the U.S. response evokes memories of early covid missteps. **A3**

THE WORLD

Weeks of heavy rains in Kenya have left at least 38 dead and displaced more than 11,000. **A12**

Haiti’s premier submitted his resignation, and a transitional council was sworn in. **A15**

THE ECONOMY

The EPA finalized rules to slash air and water pollution and other emissions from power plants, but legal challenges are likely. **A17**

A massive study pinpointed major brands responsible for the largest shares of the world’s plastic pollution. **A18**

THE REGION

Prince George’s County Executive Angela D. Alsobrooks (D) restored a youth curfew at National Harbor after a “troubling” brawl. **B1**

Carey Wright was selected by the Maryland State Board of Education as the next superintendent of schools. **B1**

STYLE

Rentable “robots” are getting dance parties started at wedding receptions and more. **C1**

WEEKEND

Five food halls that have opened in the D.C. area in the past year have their own personalities, cultivated by a unique mix of flavors.

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