

The Washington Post

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Democracy Dies in Darkness

THURSDAY, MAY 9, 2024 • \$3

ELECTION 2024

GOP grows evasive on accepting 2024 result

BY PATRICK SVITEK

Top Republicans, led by former president Donald Trump, are refusing to commit to accept November's election results with six months until voters head to the polls, raising concerns that the country could see a repeat of the violent aftermath of Trump's loss four years ago.

The question has become something of a litmus test, particularly among the long list of possible running mates for Trump, whose relationship with his first vice president, Mike Pence, ruptured because Pence resisted Trump's pressure to overturn the 2020 election.

In a vivid recent example, Sen. Tim Scott (R-S.C.) was pressed at least six times in a TV interview Sunday on whether he would accept this November's results. He repeatedly declined to do so, only saying he was looking forward to Trump being president again.

He continued to evade the question even as the interviewer, NBC News's Kristen Welker, reminded him that a "hallmark of SEE ELECTION ON A20



PHOTOS BY MELINA MARA/THE WASHINGTON POST

Climate change's toll on Highway 1

Intense storms, slides and fires imperil the beloved — and vital — California roadway

BY MELINA MARA, SCOTT DANCE AND BRIANNA SACKS

BIG SUR, CALIF. — Workers dangle from a crane, drilling into the vertical face of rock that holds up one of the most famous and picturesque stretches of road in the world. They're performing a delicate surgery on fragile geology in hopes that a single lane of traffic can safely flow to Big Sur before summer arrives.

On this day, it had been nearly a month since a rockslide severed Highway 1, California's beloved road-trip destination.

Across this stretch of the Central Coast, landslides have repeatedly buried the highway's undulating curves or sent pavement tumbling into the Pacific Ocean. They bring a steady drumbeat of road blockages, tourism disruptions and stranded communities. Now, some fear the landslides are getting worse, due to climate change and engineering missteps throughout the roadway's 86-year life span.

It was always a risky proposition to maintain a highway at the very edge of SEE HIGHWAY 1 ON A6



TOP: A stretch of Highway 1 outside Big Sur, Calif., has largely been closed since the Rocky Creek slide March 30, when part of the roadway collapsed into the Pacific Ocean. ABOVE: Big Sur residents have had Partington Cove, which is usually crowded with visitors, mostly to themselves since the closure of Highway 1.

Border closure cuts off aid flow

ISRAEL SEIZED RAFAH CROSSING INTO GAZA

Agencies warn supplies running dangerously low

BY CLAIRE PARKER

CAIRO — Food, fuel and basic supplies are running dangerously low in Gaza after Israel seized and shut down the Rafah border crossing Tuesday, aid agencies said, threatening to worsen an already catastrophic humanitarian situation.

Israel's forces took control early Tuesday of the Rafah crossing between Gaza and Egypt in what appeared to be the start of its promised ground operation in the southern border city — opposed by even its staunchest allies, including Washington. The Israel Defense Forces also intensified its bombardment of Rafah and issued evacuation orders for about 100,000 people in the city's east.

Israel's seizure of the crossing plunged the aid community into crisis, cutting its key supply lines and stranding international personnel on both sides of the Gaza-Egypt border. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, head of the World Health Organization, said Wednesday that the agency only had three days' worth of fuel left to keep health services running in the south.

Israeli authorities announced Wednesday that they would reopen Kerem Shalom, the other major crossing for aid trucks, which has been closed since Sunday after Hamas militants killed four Israeli soldiers in a rocket attack over the weekend.

SEE GAZA ON A12

War report: U.S. assessment of Israel's conduct is delayed. A12

RUSSIA, REMASTERED

Under Putin, liberalism is no longer on the syllabus

BY MARY ILYUSHINA

Two weeks before the start of his 25th year as Russia's supreme political leader, Vladimir Putin made a sweeping proclamation: "Wars are won by teachers."

The remark, which Putin repeated twice during his year-end news conference in December, shed light on a campaign he is waging that has received little attention outside wartime Russia: to imbue the country's education system with patriotism, purge universities of Western influences, and quash any dissent among professors and students on campuses that are often hotbeds of political activism.

At St. Petersburg State University, this meant dismantling a prestigious humanities program called the Faculty of Liberal Arts and Sciences. For more than a decade, until May 2022, the faculty — or college — was led by Alexei Kudrin, a liberal economist and former finance minister who had

SEE RUSSIA ON A10

Arrest in Russia: Detained U.S. soldier followed woman there. A13

Trump's signal boost

Allies on other platforms are amplifying the former president's messages far beyond his Truth Social site. A4

Frustration, strained aid as 'lift-assist' calls abound

BY TODD C. FRANKEL

ROCKFORD, ILL. — The 911 call came just before 8 a.m., and Ladder 5's four-man crew scrambled to the truck just as their overnight shift was about to end. It was the kind of call that veteran firefighter Chad Callison said he dreaded.

It was not a heart attack, or a car crash or a building fire.

It was a "lift assist" at Heritage Woods, a local assisted-living facility.

Lift-assist 911 calls from assisted living and other senior homes have spiked by 30 percent nationwide in recent years to nearly 42,000 calls a year, an analysis of fire department emergency call data by The Washington Post has found. That's nearly three times faster than the increase in overall 911 call volume during SEE LIFT ASSIST ON A2

D.C. police clear encampment, detaining 33 people

BY PETER HERMANN, LAUREN LUMPKIN, EMILY DAVIES AND OMARI DANIELS

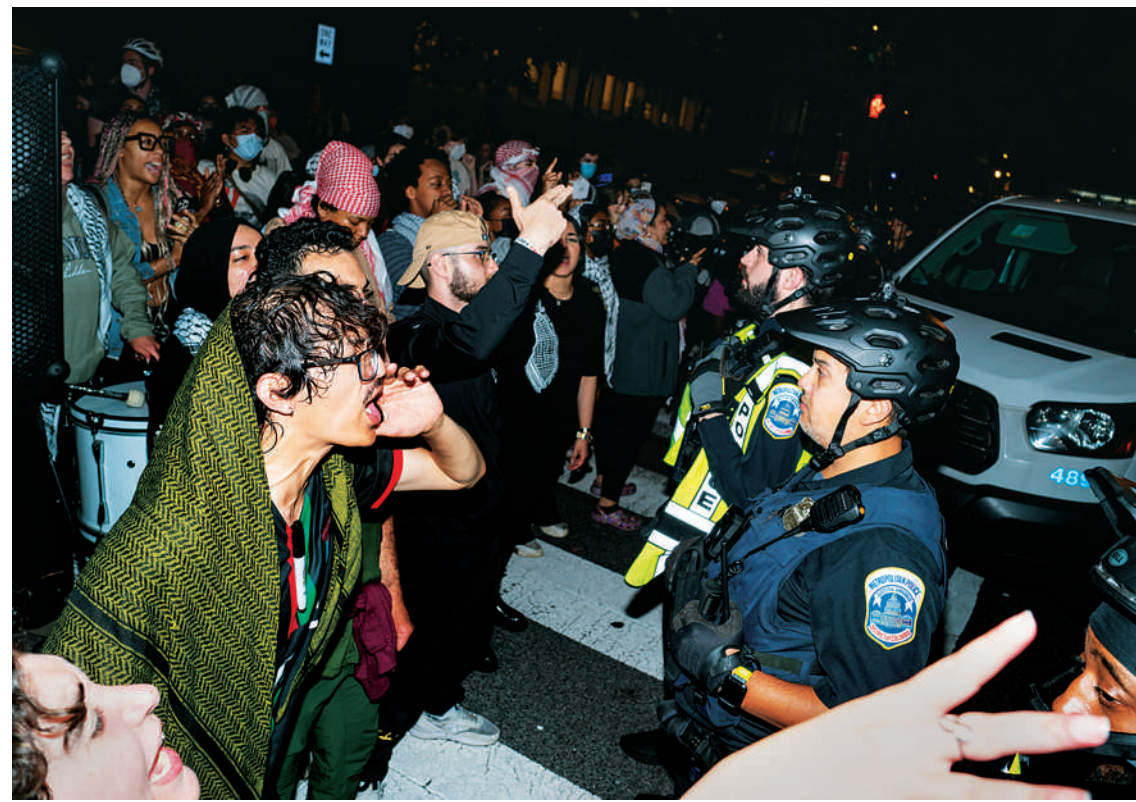
After resisting repeated pleas from George Washington University to clear a pro-Palestinian encampment from the school's grounds, D.C. police on Wednesday became the latest department in the country to forcibly remove such campus protesters, as officers swept through a tent city erected blocks from the White House.

Moving in before dawn, members of the department's civil disturbance unit arrested 33 people and skirmished with some demonstrators, police said. Police fired pepper spray three times at people they said tried to push through a line of officers on Pennsylvania Avenue NW, just off the Foggy Bottom campus, according to police.

The 3 a.m. sweep came hours before Mayor Muriel E. Bowser

SEE PROTEST ON A16

D.C. screening: High school will show Palestinian film after suit. B1



JORDAN TOVIN FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Demonstrators clash with D.C. police outside the George Washington University encampment on Wednesday. Officers moved in before dawn, firing pepper spray and skirmishing with some protesters.

IN THE NEWS

Protecting corals With another dire summer possible, groups in Florida are shifting their efforts to save the species to better keep up with the warming climate. A8

D.C. bear sighting A Brookland resident spotted a black bear, nicknamed "Otis," walking in the neighborhood. B1

THE NATION
An appellate court ruled that a Catholic school had grounds to fire a gay teacher. A3
House Speaker Mike Johnson survived a bid by Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene to oust him. A20

THE WORLD
In Ukraine these days, DIY means building drones for soldiers on the front lines. A9
Officials ordered electricity rationing across Ukraine after Russian airstrikes. A13

THE ECONOMY
Live-streamers have become a go-to source for real-time coverage of the student protests on college campuses. A14
President Biden hailed a new Microsoft AI data center that will be on the Wisconsin site where a Foxconn plant was once planned. A15

THE REGION
Hoping for glimpses of migrating species, birders paid an early-morning visit to D.C.'s Roosevelt Island. B1
A Maryland man pleaded guilty to second-degree murder in the fatal beating of an 87-year-old man over car damage. B1

STYLE
In D.C., neighbors are upset after a beloved alley cat was taken in by a resident at the nearby Watergate. C1

LOCAL LIVING
Only the zaniest real estate listings make the cut to be featured on Zillow Gone Wild, a social media sensation.

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