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Court: Ex-presidents have immunity

Justices' ruling dims chances of another Trump trial before the November election

By Mark Sherman
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court on Monday ruled for the first time that former presidents have broad immunity from prosecution, extending the delay in the Washington criminal case against Donald Trump on

charges he plotted to overturn his 2020 presidential election loss and all but ending prospects the former president could be tried before the November election. In a historic 6-3 ruling, the court's conservative majority, including the three justices appointed by Trump, narrowed the case against him and returned it

to the trial court to determine what is left of special counsel Jack Smith's indictment. President Joe Biden said in remarks Monday night that the public had a "right to know" Trump's role in the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection. That probably won't happen now until after the election. "I know I will respect the limits of presidential power as I have for the three-and-a-half years, but any president, including

Donald Trump, will now be free to ignore the law," he said. The ruling reflected a muscular view of presidential power, and left dissenting judges to criticize it as undermining a core democratic principle that no person is above the law. The court's decision highlighted how the justices have been thrust into an impactful role in the November presidential election. Earlier, they had rejected efforts to bar him from the ballot

because of his actions following the 2020 election. The court last week also limited an obstruction charge faced by Trump and used against hundreds of his supporters who stormed the Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021. The split among the justices also in many ways mirrored the political divide in the country. "Under our constitutional structure of separated powers, the nature of presidential power
Immunity continues on A3



Former Houston police officer Gerald Goines speaks to his lawyers, Nicole Degrade Hochglaupe, left, and Molly Bagshaw before the start of jury selection in his felony murder trial on Monday, more than five years since the fatal Harding Street raid.

Jury selection for Goines trial begins

By Nicole Hensley
STAFF WRITER

The trial of former Houston police officer Gerald Goines on felony murder charges stemming from the deadly Harding Street narcotics raid began Monday with lawyers polling would-be jurors about their ability to remain impartial. Several prospective jurors raised their hands to say they

recognized Goines from news reports — and more chimed in after a juror referred to him as "Officer Goines." No one in the court identified him as the law enforcement official until that moment. One woman, who lawyers struck from their roster, said she has kept tabs on developments in the Harding Street turmoil since the no-knock warrant was carried out in Jan-

uary 2019. "I'm not sure I can be fair," she said. Many of the jurors who shared her sentiment were also struck. Prosecutors and Goines' defense team will interview 42 potential jurors — whittled down from the 120 they started with — one-on-one to determine whether they will return for his trial in September. The

lengthier jury selection process is typically reserved for death penalty cases but has also been used in high-profile trials, such as the Antonio Armstrong Jr. capital murder trial held last year after two hung juries and attempts to ferry the case to another county. The trial comes more than five years since the Pecan Park raid that left Dennis Tuttle and
Goines continues on A6

A&M's Sharp to retire next June

By Samantha Ketterer
STAFF WRITER

Texas A&M University System Chancellor John Sharp will retire next summer after 14 years steering one of the nation's largest higher education systems — leaving behind a further-reaching operation than he took on and cementing his place among the most influential leaders in the institution's history. Sharp will exit June 30, 2025, as the system's longest-serving chancellor, Texas A&M officials said Monday. A politician by trade, he was hired in 2011 with the expectation of working only five years. He stayed longer, during which time he boosted the athletics program's standing among national brands, made A&M a household name for research and built out the system with more than \$11 billion in infrastructure projects. After his retirement, Sharp, 73, will move to Austin to spend more time with his children and grandchildren. "Leading this grand enterprise has been one of the great privileges of my life," the chancellor said in a letter Monday to system employees, regents and elected officials. "I feel a deep sense of gratitude to all of you who have shown confidence in me and contributed to our collective endeavor. Together we have lifted the Texas A&M System to historic heights."
Sharp continues on A3

Some HISD parents, teachers opposing \$4.4 billion bond

By Megan Menchaca
STAFF WRITER

Several Houston ISD teachers, parents and community members say they are planning to cast their first-ever vote against a school bond if the district puts the \$4.4 billion bond package devel-

oped under state-appointed Superintendent Mike Miles on the ballot in November. Critics recognize that this is one of their most powerful opportunities to voice their opposition to the state takeover, the replacement of HISD's elected board members, concerns over finan-

cial accountability and a lack of trust in district leaders, especially Miles. Jackie Anderson, president of the Houston Federation of Teachers, said the largest teachers union in HISD has never opposed any of the district's past four school bond proposals — un-

til now. She, like other bond opponents, has adopted the rallying cry of "No trust. No bond," to stress to district leaders that much more must be done before they'd ever consider voting for the proposal. "This is a very difficult position for the union to take and for

teachers to take," Anderson said. "We know that our schools need work. We know that, but because our collective voices and democracy have been stripped away from us, this is our only chance to express our disapproval at the direction that our
HISD continues on A6

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