

UNEARTHING THE FUTURE

Ancient Earth sent warnings on climate change **SPECIAL SECTION**



HEALTH & SCIENCE

Exploring love and its many forms beyond romance **EXPANDED SECTION**



THE BIG SHIFT

Women are taking control of wealth and influence **SPECIAL SECTION**

# The Washington Post

Prices may vary in areas outside metropolitan Washington.

RE V1 V2 V3 V4



Rain, breezy 51/34 • Tomorrow: Mostly sunny, breezy 48/30 **B6**

Democracy Dies in Darkness

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2024 • \$5

## Border pivotal in N.Y. special election

House race a high-profile preview of immigration as 2024 campaign issue

BY HANNAH KNOWLES

NEW YORK — GOP candidate Mazi Pilip has made repeat appearances at a playground across the street from white tents — set up to house a thousand migrants bused in from the southern border, whom she calls a threat to public safety. Republicans have spent almost all of their TV budget for her battleground U.S. House race on immigration ads, broadcasting grainy footage of an assault on police officers and warning of an “invasion.”

Many Democrats have long denounced such dire descriptions as fearmongering, or sidestepped debates about the border. But their nominee in Tuesday’s special election, Tom Suozzi, recently said he takes no issue with Republicans’ use of the word “invasion.” And he is taking the fight to his rival on what he agrees is a catastrophe, reflecting a broader tactical shift Democrats are making in this year’s elections.

“It’s a very serious problem with people crossing our border in a very unvetted, chaotic fashion, and it needs to be addressed,” Suozzi said at a recent news conference focused on the issue. He assailed Pilip and other Republicans’ opposition to a bipartisan border deal that collapsed spectacularly in Congress: **SEE IMMIGRATION ON A5**

## As stakes rise, Trump draws from elite legal circles

BY PERRY STEIN, SHAYNA JACOBS, JOSH DAWSEY AND AMY GARDNER

In the past six weeks alone, Donald Trump’s lawyers argued in the Supreme Court over whether the Constitution bars him from running for president, lost an appeals court battle on presidential immunity and defended their client in a civil defamation trial in which Trump took the stand — all while reviewing evidence and submitting highly technical court motions involving classified documents.

On Monday, Trump’s lawyers appeared at a closed hearing in Florida with the former president, filed a motion in the Supreme Court and attended a hearing in Georgia. And on Thursday, they will have a hearing in Georgia and a pre-trial conference in New York, where a judge could finalize the start date for the first criminal trial of a former president in U.S. **SEE TRUMP ON A20**

**Fulton County:** Former president to attend hearing on Fani Willis. **A2**

**Supreme Court:** Trump appeals to keep his trial in D.C. on hold. **A4**



LOAY AYYOUB FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

**ABOVE:** A Palestinian child climbs around in the rubble of destroyed homes Monday in Rafah, in the southern Gaza Strip, after Israeli airstrikes that killed more than 60 people. Under the cover of overnight bombing, Israeli forces rescued two dual Israeli Argentine citizens held as hostages in the Strip. **RIGHT:** The two rescued men, 70-year-old Luis Har, left, and 60-year-old Fernando Simon Marman, second from right, reunite with loved ones at a hospital in Ramat Gan, Israel.

**Fears for Rafah:** Alongside Jordan’s king, Biden voices concerns about an Israeli invasion. **A12**

**‘I don’t know where to go’: Operation shocks panic-stricken Palestinians in Rafah. A14**



ISRAELI DEFENSE FORCES/REUTERS

## Israel rescues two held in Gaza

NIGHTTIME RAID IS BACKED BY BOMBING

Dozens of Palestinians killed in crowded Rafah

BY SHIRA RUBIN

TEL AVIV — Israel’s military rescued two hostages overnight Monday under the cover of deadly airstrikes on the southern Gaza city of Rafah, unleashing a wave of hope across Israel and dread among the 1.4 million Palestinians who have sought refuge in the area.

The two hostages, Fernando Simon Marman, 60, and Luis Har, 70, both dual Israeli Argentine citizens, were abducted from Kibbutz Nir Yitzhak on Oct. 7. They were taken captive with three female relatives who were released during a week-long pause in fighting in late November.

Israel’s military said Marman and Har were both in “good medical condition.” They were transported via military helicopters to Sheba Tel Hashomer Medical Center in Israel, where the medical staff said their condition was “stable” and where they were reunited with their families.

“I salute our brave warriors for the bold action that led to their liberation,” Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in a statement Monday. “Only the continuation of military pressure until complete victory will result in the release of all our abductees. **SEE GAZA ON A13**

This article was adapted from the book “An American Dreamer: Life in a Divided Country” by David Finkel. Published by Random House, © 2024 by David Finkel. All rights reserved.

## An American soldier’s journey from Iraq to Election Day

His experience in 2020 is a story of what one vote can mean and a reminder of what is at stake

BY DAVID FINKEL

It was November 3, 2020 — Election Day — and soon after Brent Cummings woke up, he called out, “Hey, I’m going to vote.”

Who in his big house heard him? He wasn’t sure. Probably no one, he realized. His wife, Laura, was already gone. His older daughter, Emily, was away in college, and his younger daughter, Meredith, was asleep in her bedroom. A marriage going on twenty-six years, a twenty-one-year-old daughter, an eighteen-year-old daughter, five bedrooms, four bathrooms, a front porch with a couple of rocking chairs, a large backyard where his daughters had spent hours bouncing on a trampoline in the warming sunshine of suburban Atlanta — this was the life Brent Cummings had built since his days as a combat soldier in the Iraq War, although another way to describe that life was that the trampoline had eventually become covered in leaves and hauled away, he had somehow **SEE DREAMER ON A8**



BRANDEN CAMP/AP

**Voters line up to cast their ballots on Election Day, Nov. 3, 2020, in Emerson, Ga. All told, 154 million Americans voted in the 2020 presidential election, Army veteran Brent Cummings among them.**

## Shooting in Chinatown tests plan to reduce crime

BY PETER HERMANN

Six times since July, police allege, the same man robbed the same Walgreens in Chinatown, across the street from the Gallery Place Metro station. The FBI joined D.C. police trying to track him down.

Residents had long complained of crime and decay in the once-bustling downtown Washington neighborhood of shops and businesses that never seemed to fully recover from the coronavirus pandemic, and they had pressed city officials to take more aggressive steps to clean up the area. Prosecutors began seeking stay-away orders to keep those charged with crimes from coming back, and the city launched an initiative to offer resources for those in the area needing help.

Then on Sunday evening — the day before the city was scheduled to roll out that initiative — police **SEE CHINATOWN ON A4**

**Souring relations:** Feuds escalate among leaders over Va. arena. **B1**

## IN THE NEWS

**Stocking shelves** A “little anarchist bookshop” in North Carolina took in titles banned from Florida schools and is sending them to anyone who requests them. **A7**

**Search goes on** A landslide killed 55 people last week in the southern Philippines, officials said, and nearly as many are still missing. **A12**

**THE NATION** Police released more details about the woman who opened fire at a megachurch in Texas. **A3** Harvard is seeking to foster respectful debate after turmoil that roiled the campus. **A6**

**THE WORLD** Indonesia’s president faces sharp criticism over the election to replace him. **A10** In Pakistan, all eyes are on the nation’s military generals after a shocking ballot result. **A11**

**THE ECONOMY** Intuitive Machines’ imminent moon mission demonstrates the growing role of the private sector in space exploration. **A15** The Help Desk’s Heather Kelly explains how to keep your child safe online — without taking away a phone. **A16**

**THE REGION** Two men charged in a shooting in Prince George’s County that left a toddler dead will remain in jail pending trial. **B1** More than 1,700 people applied for a Maryland cannabis license in a process designed to foster social equity. **B3**

**OBITUARIES** Bob Edwards, 76, helped kick off the day for millions of radio listeners as host of NPR’s “Morning Edition” for nearly 25 years. **B1**

**SPORTS** With a spring training call-up, a female umpire inches closer to making baseball history. **D1**

BUSINESS NEWS.....A15  
COMICS.....C6  
OPINION PAGES.....A17  
OBITUARIES.....B4  
TELEVISION.....C4  
WORLD NEWS.....A10

CONTENT © 2024  
The Washington Post  
Year 147, No. 53760

