The Washington Post

Prices may vary in areas outside metropolitan Washington.

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Mostly cloudy 51/35 • Tomorrow: Partly sunny 52/36 **B6**

Democracy Dies in Darkness

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2023 · **$3**

State ballot actions add to pressure on justices

High court could decide for nation if Trump is qualified to run in 2024

BY PATRICK MARLEY, AZI PAYBARAH, JOSH DAWSEY AND MAEGAN VAZQUEZ

Now that a second state has decided to keep Donald Trump off the primary ballot for his role in the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol, there is increased pressure on the Supreme Court to act — and to do so quickly.

Other states could soon follow the lead of Colorado and Maine, said legal scholars who have been tracking the issue, and there is a risk of a patchwork of decisions, with Trump appearing on ballots in some states but not others. The Supreme Court could determine for all states whether Trump is qualified to run.

"The court has to take this case," said Josh Blackman, a professor at South Texas College of Law Houston. "Super Tuesday is coming up [on March 5]. You can't have this lingering. . . . You have to print ballots for absentees, overseas ballots, military ballots. We need a prompt resolution of this issue as soon as possible."

Last week, the Colorado Supreme Court found in a 4-3 decision that Trump was "disqualified from holding the office of President" because he participated in an insurrection. Maine Secretary

SEE **TRUMP** ON **A8**

DANYLO PAVLOV/REUTERS

Smoke rises over a residential building in Kyiv after a Russian missile and drone strike. The scale of Friday's attack confirmed what many have feared for months: that Russia was conserving its missile stocks throughout the fall for strikes in the winter.

Russia batters civilian targets

BARRAGE IS ONE OF WAR'S LARGEST

Ukraine says at least 30 killed, 160 injured

BY ISABELLE KHURSHUDYAN, LIZZIE JOHNSON AND ANASTACIA GALOUCHKA

KYIV — Russia fired more than 150 missiles and drones at Ukraine on Friday in one of the largest bombardments of the war, officials said, hitting schools, parks, homes, a hospital and other civilian infrastructure, and rupturing the relative calm of an otherwise quiet winter on the conflict's static front lines.

The scale of the attack confirmed what many in Ukraine have feared for months — that Russia was conserving its missile stocks throughout the fall for massive strikes in the winter.

At least 30 people were killed and more than 160 injured in the hours-long assault, according to Ukraine's Ministry of Internal Affairs. In a statement late Friday, President Volodymyr Zelensky said that rescue operations were still underway in several cities.

"It is important that the world reacts to this manifestation of terror," he said.

Officials in Kyiv had warned that stalled U.S. security assistance, which includes ammunition for U.S.-made air-defense systems, could embolden the Russians and place Ukrainian cities in peril.

Britain's defense minister, Grant Shapps, said on Friday that his country was sending hundreds of air-defense missiles to Ukraine to ensure it "has what it needs to defend itself from [Russian Presi-

SEE **UKRAINE** ON **A12**

Putin's vulnerability: Military wives loudly oppose the war. **A13**

HOME-SCHOOL NATION

Home educators fear revival of state oversight

Legislatures weigh new regulations amid push to offer taxpayer funding

BY PETER JAMISON AND LAURA MECKLER

When Melanie Elsey stepped up to the lectern at the Ohio Statehouse in April, it looked like a triumphant season for homeschoolers.

Lawmakers would soon roll back what little oversight the state exercised over its booming population of home educators. Now they were discussing what should have been an equally welcome policy. As part of an expansive school-choice bill, Republican legislators wanted to offer home-schoolers thousands of dollars in taxpayer funding each year.

Yet Elsey, a former homeschool mom representing Christian Home Educators of Ohio — the state's oldest and most influential home-schooling association — delivered a surprising message to members of a House education committee: Home-schoolers didn't want the money.

"These families value their freedom to direct and provide educational opportunities for their children," she said. Ohio home-schooling leaders worried that if they accepted government funding, they would also be forced to accept government regulation of the kind that the home-schooling movement had spent decades dismantling.

The situation in Ohio illustrates the extraordinary moment at which America's home-schooling movement finds itself after nearly a half-century of activism.

Few causes have enjoyed more success. In the 1980s, it was illegal in most of the United States for parents who weren't trained educators to teach their children at home.

Today home schooling is legal for parents without teaching credentials, and many states don't require them to have graduated from high school. In much of the

SEE **OVERSIGHT** ON **A4**

Gulf Coast plagued by toxic air — with no fix

EPA lags on reining in pollution as communities deal with health issues

BY ANNA PHILLIPS, AMUDALAT AJASA AND TIMOTHY PUKO

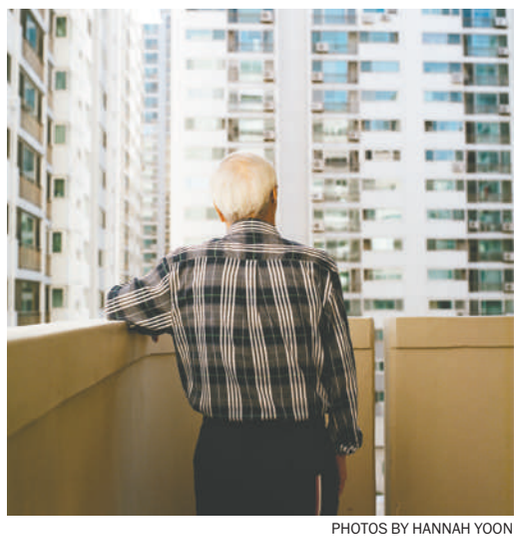
LAKE CHARLES, LA. — As a girl growing up near refineries and chemical factories in this part of the Gulf Coast, 77-year-old Lois Malvo thought nothing of the way her eyes burned when she played outside. Now she sees dangers all around her.

The smell of rotten eggs and gasoline frequently fills her low-slung home, which lacks running water and leans to one side. Most days, she wakes up in the grips of a coughing fit. Cancer, which she blames on the toxic chemicals in the air, killed her sister and afflicted both of her brothers as well as herself.

"Our health lets us know that something isn't right," she said. "We're being attacked by the industry because we're vulnerable people and really, nobody cares about us."

Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Michael Regan tried to change perceptions of those like Malvo when he toured pollution-choked communities in Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas two years ago, assuring residents that the Biden administration was committed to revers-

SEE **EPA** ON **A6**



PHOTOS BY HANNAH YOON

The photography was supported by the Howard G. Buffett Fund for Women Journalists, an initiative of the International Women's Media Foundation.

The Korean War displaced hundreds of thousands of North Koreans who believed they would go back after the fighting ended. The war never ended. They never returned.

SEVEN DECADES AWAY FROM HOME

BY HANNAH YOON AND MICHELLE YE HEE LEE IN SEOUL

Home is a complicated place for many survivors of the Korean War.

No one knows how many Koreans were displaced in the lead-up to that conflict, which began when North Korean troops invaded the South on June 25, 1950, and during the three years of fighting. An estimated 1 million to 5 million people were forced to leave their homes. Most thought it would be temporary.

But the war ended in 1953 with an armistice, not a truce, and the division of the peninsula became permanent. Families were separated, most of them forever.

The chaos of war determined on which side of the line families would settle.

At the time of division, the North was richer than the South. But their fates reversed over the following decades: The South evolved into a democracy with a thriving economy, while the North turned to communism and poverty.

Those who fled from the North to the South created communities that helped them assimilate and survive. Some of them set up in the capital, Seoul, and other displaced Koreans from the North created Abai Village, a town on the east coast, not far from the border with the North.

Today, the generation that once lived in a unified Korea is fading into a chapter of history. Even Abai Village is turning into a tourist attraction, with few traces of its origins left.

For North Koreans who resettled in the South, the legacy of the war remains a personal and complex one — one that brought trauma, new opportunities, loss, prosperity and longing.

CONTINUED ON **A10**

IN THE NEWS

Rising deportations The United States deported more than 142,000 people this year, nearly double the 2022 figure. **A15**

An unsettling trifecta A surge of RSV, flu and coronavirus cases in the D.C. region has officials worried about whether hospitals will be able to handle the strain. **B1**

THE NATION

An activist was given back the land that a racist mob forced her family to flee in 1939. A2

A college chancellor called his firing over explicit videos a free-speech issue. A8

THE WORLD

Ultra-Orthodox Israeli Jews, who are exempt from military service, are enlisting nonetheless in the fight against Hamas in Gaza following the deadly Oct. 7 attack on Israel. A9

THE ECONOMY

For corporate diversity efforts, 2024 could be a do-or-die year as lawsuits rise and companies pull back from some initiatives. A14

Attacks on cargo ships on the Red Sea lead to longer routes that might raise prices for U.S. consumers. A15

THE REGION

Maryland school districts are struggling to comply with the state's "Blueprint" education overhaul law. B1

Virginia's incoming legislature is teeing up bills to restrict assault weapon sales, putting Gov. Glenn Youngkin's views in the spotlight. B1

STYLE

Why are there so many Spotify Wrapped-style end-of-year lists quantifying our lives? C1

SPORTS

Daniel Snyder's sale of the Commanders and a nonbinding deal to move the Wizards and Capitals top the year's sports stories. D1

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