



Partly sunny 41/26 • Tomorrow: Mostly sunny 46/29 B6

Democracy Dies in Darkness

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2024 • \$3

A sudden, predictable death for Alexei Navalny

The fate of Putin’s imprisoned foe ignites fury from world leaders

BY ROBYN DIXON,
DAVID M. HERSZENHORN
AND CATHERINE BELTON

RIGA, LATVIA — Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny, the defiant anti-corruption crusader and democracy champion who was President Vladimir Putin’s despised nemesis, died suddenly in an Arctic Russian prison colony Friday, penitentiary officials said, removing the most prominent figure inside Russia willing to challenge the Kremlin’s rule.

His death — foretold as almost inevitable, including by Navalny himself — sent shock waves across Russia and was quickly condemned by global leaders, some of whom joined Russian opposition figures in calling it a state-sponsored murder. Navalny, 47, had appeared in a court hearing by video link the day before, seemingly in good health and with his trademark humor intact.

Navalny’s family and his team, who continued to run his political operation in exile, had warned that his life was in danger since his arrest in January 2021, when he returned to Russia after recovering in Germany from being poisoned with a banned nerve agent. An investigation led by Navalny and Bell-ingcat, an investigative journalism organization, had identified a team of Russian federal security agents as responsible for the assassination attempt, and his supporters noted that in prison, he was in the clutches of the very government that had already tried to kill him several times.

In a dramatic appearance Friday at the Munich Security Conference, Navalny’s wife said she did not know whether to believe the reports from Russian author-

SEE NAVALNY ON A10

‘This tragedy’: President invokes Navalny to shame House GOP. **A5**

Obituary: Despite perils, Navalny never let up in deriding Putin. **A11**



MILAN KAMMERMAYER/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Protesters honor Alexei Navalny at a memorial in front of the Russian Embassy in Prague on Friday, after learning of his death at a prison colony at age 47. Navalny had spent more than a decade forcefully opposing Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Mourning from afar, widow rebukes Kremlin

BY FRANCESCA EBEL

As Telegram exploded with the news of Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny’s death, his wife, Yuliya Navalnaya, was in Germany — about to attend the annual Munich Security Conference surrounded by world leaders and defense officials, and within view of countless television cameras.

Navalnaya has generally sought to avoid the spotlight, to shield her two children from the fallout of her husband’s political work and to deny his tormentors in the Kremlin, including President Vladimir Putin, the satisfaction of ever seeing her cry. But as she took to the stage and

delivered a dramatic, surprise statement, grief and worry were etched across her swollen face, and her eyes were tearful and blotchy.

She said she was not certain whether the reports of her husband’s death were true. But, her voice trembling with fury, she said: “I want Putin, his entourage, Putin’s friends and his government to know they will pay for what they have done to our country, to our family and my husband. And that day will come very soon.”

She noted that Navalny — who had spoken out forcefully against Russia’s war in Ukraine and called for reparations to be

SEE FAMILY ON A10



EVGENY FELDMAN/AP

Navalny with wife Yuliya Navalnaya at a rally in Moscow in 2013. She learned of his death while at a Munich conference.

‘Systemic’ issues in a White House medical unit

Staffers say prescriptions lacked proper procedures under Obama, Trump

BY DAN DIAMOND
AND MICHAEL KRANISH

When Omarosa Manigault Newman wrenched her ankle while rushing to join a motorcade in January 2017, the Trump aide and former reality TV star sought help from the White House Medical Unit — a military-run clinic that promised free, on-demand care to senior officials.

But Manigault Newman quickly realized the clinic went beyond standard procedures.

“They would give out anything, right from the bottle, no prescription needed,” Manigault Newman recounted in her memoir “Unhinged.”

Now, the Pentagon has confirmed many aspects of what Manigault Newman said was an open secret among senior officials.

A long-awaited inspector gen-

SEE WHITE HOUSE ON A6

“The anti-plastics people make people feel guilty. . . .
We have to fight back with stories of our own.”

Eve Vitale, chief executive of the Society of Plastics Engineers Foundation

The plastics industry wants to talk to your kids

In hundreds of schools, promoters’ lesson plans seek to improve reputation for waste and pollution

BY EVAN HALPER

WARREN, MICH. — Wearing a lab coat, Eve Vitale asked a chemistry class at Warren Mott High School if anyone had heard anything bad about plastics. Hands shot up. It doesn’t degrade, said one student. It hurts the environment, said another.

But “that’s not really the plastic’s fault,” said Vitale, chief executive of the Society of Plastics Engineers Foundation, a group of industry professionals. “That’s the fault of humanity.” After warning what a “mess” it would be in supermarkets and hospitals without plastics, Vitale instructed that the plastic pollution crisis could be addressed through stepped up personal responsibility, product innovation and improvements in recycling.

School campuses are a new battleground in an increasingly bitter brawl over plastics, as groups like Vitale’s seek to improve the reputation of a material that has become infamous as an

SEE PLASTIC ON A14



NIC ANTAYA FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Eve Vitale spoke at Warren Mott High School in January as part of the PlastiVan program, which sends plastic evangelists to put a positive spin on the material and downplay its environmental effects.

Trump ordered to pay \$354M

SONS AND COMPANY ALSO PENALIZED

Judge in N.Y. civil fraud trial cites lack of remorse

BY SHAYNA JACOBS
AND MARK BERMAN

NEW YORK — A judge on Friday ordered former president Donald Trump to pay more than \$350 million in penalties, plus interest, following a civil fraud trial, finding that he and others had carried out a years-long scheme to use “blatantly false financial data” to borrow money at lower rates.

New York Supreme Court Justice Arthur Engoron issued a deluge of punishments, including years-long bans on Trump and his adult sons taking top jobs in companies in the state, and he did so with biting language, castigating defendants as stubbornly unwilling to admit fault or acknowledge reality.

“Their complete lack of contrition and remorse borders on pathological,” Engoron, who heard the case without a jury, said in a written decision.

Engoron’s decision was a stinging loss for Trump, and it marked the latest legal and financial defeat he has suffered over the last year. Over that span, Trump has been charged in four criminal

SEE NEW YORK ON A4

‘Star witness’ mostly silent in hearing to remove Willis

Former law partner of Wade repeatedly declines questions on relationship

BY HOLLY BAILEY
AND AMY GARDNER

ATLANTA — A man billed as the “star witness” in the case to disqualify Fulton County District Attorney Fani T. Willis (D) took the stand Friday and acknowledged he exchanged text messages about Willis with the defense attorney who first raised allegations that Willis was engaged in an improper personal relationship with the outside attorney she appointed to lead the case against Donald Trump.

But Terrence Bradley, a former law partner of special prosecutor Nathan Wade, repeatedly declined to answer questions under oath about what he knew about the romantic relationship between Willis and Wade. Bradley, who previously represented Wade in his ongoing divorce, cited concerns he might violate attorney-client privilege and could be disbarred.

However, in a dramatic moment, an attorney for Bradley

SEE GEORGIA ON A4

The Critique: Fani Willis’s powerful repose on the witness stand. **A2**

Monica Hesse: Hearing for DA’s relationship was a cringe-fest. **C1**

IN THE NEWS

Biden in East Palestine The president visited the Ohio derailment site more than a year on, touting work to clean up the environmental fiasco and fixing blame on the train firm. **A3**

Youngkin’s arena bid A Virginia Senate panel looks to remove provisions for the governor’s top priority from the forthcoming budget. **B1**

THE NATION
Yale apologized for its links to slavery, announcing efforts aimed at its vestiges. **A3**
Sen. Joe Manchin III announced he will not launch a third-party bid for the presidency. **A7**

THE WORLD
A study warns that, by 2050, parts of the Amazon could hit ecological tipping points. **A8**
At the Munich Security Conference, Vice President Harris sought to reassure wary allies. **A9**

THE ECONOMY
Propaganda accounts on X under foreign control aim to divide and disrupt as the company is largely absent from efforts to stop misinformation’s spread. **A12**
OpenAI revealed realistic videos from its new AI tool, raising deepfake concerns. **A13**

THE REGION
The CEO at Maryland’s Clifton T. Perkins Hospital Center faces a temporary restraining order from officials who say he threatened staffers. **B1**
Service charges result in complaints, confusion and lawsuits for D.C. restaurants. Here’s what to know. **B1**

STYLE
Video games are struggling to grow revenue, and layoffs across the industry could get worse this year. **C1**

SPORTS
The Winter Games are less than two years away, and Italy’s \$87 million Olympic sliding track is taking heat over costs. **D1**

BUSINESS NEWS.....A12
COMICS.....C5
OPINION PAGES.....A15
OBITUARIES.....B4
TELEVISION.....C3
WORLD NEWS.....A8

CONTENT © 2024
The Washington Post
Year 147, No. 53764

