



Sunny, breezy 50/33 • Tomorrow: Partly sunny 57/47 B6

Democracy Dies in Darkness

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ELECTION 2024

Hogan leads big in bid for blue seat

Poll finds healthy margin over both Democrats in Maryland's Senate race

BY ERIN COX, SCOTT CLEMENT, LATESHIA BEACHUM AND EMILY GUSKIN

With control of the U.S. Senate in play, voters in deep-blue Maryland favor Republican Larry Hogan by double digits over potential Democratic rivals, according to a Washington Post-University of Maryland poll.

The former governor left office with high job approval ratings and is better known than those competitors, but he faces a cross-current Democrats hope to exploit: The poll found Maryland voters said by a 20-point margin that they prefer Democratic control of the U.S. Senate.

Hogan's surprise entrance into the race last month upended what had been largely seen as a contest between Rep. David Trone (D-Md.) and Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks (D). The Post-UMD poll finds that if the general election were held today, voters say they would support Hogan over Trone, 49 percent to 37 percent; and Hogan over Alsobrooks, 50 percent to 36 percent.

The poll finds Trone with a narrow lead in the primary race for the reliably blue seat vacated by retiring Sen. Ben Cardin (D-Md.): 34 percent of registered Democrats support Trone while

SEE POLL ON A6

Patients seek path to legalize ibogaine

Critics say cardiac risks outweigh its uses for mental health, addictions

BY DAVID OVALLE AND DANIEL GILBERT

After three decades and five combat deployments in Navy Special Operations, Stephen Jones's life spiraled into blackouts, bouts of angry confusion and alcohol-fueled benders. Doctors diagnosed him with traumatic brain injuries inflicted by years of sea dives, parachute jumps, firefights and bomb blasts.

The extract of an ancient African shrub known as ibogaine, he says, helped heal him.

His treatment unfolded at a clinic in Mexico, where he sank into a dreamlike state, reliving forgotten memories: a lake-view as a child; a snake popping out of a pile of leaves; a young boy dead in Iraq, his head pierced by shrapnel from an enemy grenade. Ibogaine, he said, kicked his brain "into a higher gear."

Jones, 59, was part of a Stanford University study published in January showing that ibogaine dramatically improved symptoms of anxiety, depression and

SEE IBOGAINE ON A12



BRANDON BELL/GETTY IMAGES

Calling on court, Texas pushes for power to deport migrants

Questions remain over enforcement of state law, which is back on hold

BY MARIA SACCHETTI AND NICK MIROFF

Texas officials on Wednesday urged a U.S. appeals court to unblock a new law that would allow authorities to arrest and deport migrants, saying the state has been forced to take extraordinary measures to try to stop soaring levels of illegal border crossings.

The panel of judges with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit did not immediately issue a decision after an hour-long hearing on the state's attempt to exercise immigration powers on the southern border that historically have been under federal control. The state law remains on hold, and the 5th Circuit has scheduled oral arguments for April 3 to consider the law's constitutionality.

The court battle is the latest border policy clash between the Biden administration and Texas Gov. Greg Abbott (R), who says the president's immigration record has been too lax and has hurt his state by creating incentives for illegal entries. Abbott

A Texas National Guard member patrols near the Rio Grande in Eagle Pass, Tex., on Wednesday. Known as S.B. 4, a state law allowing authorities to arrest and deport migrants is on hold. The U.S. Supreme Court briefly allowed the law to take effect, but an appeals court halted it.

has led a push by Republican-run states to take on a direct role in immigration enforcement that is playing out amid a presidential race in which border security has emerged as a vulnerability for President Biden after three years of record crossings.

Illegal crossings along the Mexico border have averaged 2 million per year during Biden's term, the highest levels the U.S. Border Patrol has ever recorded.

Wednesday's hearing followed a day of legal whiplash in federal court for the Texas law, known as S.B. 4. The Supreme Court briefly allowed the law to take effect, but the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit halted the state from enforcing it late Tuesday.

Fifth Circuit Chief Judge Priscilla Richman asked during the hearing Wednesday how the Texas law would work in practice, listing scenarios that could quickly lead to confusion.

"This is the first time, it seems to

SEE TEXAS ON A5

Gaza war protests snarls Democrats' messaging

From confrontations to 'uncommitted' votes, party leaders worry about the November impact

BY ASHLEY PARKER AND TYLER PAGER

Early this month, protesters confronted Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-N.Y.) at a Brooklyn theater, demanding that she call the Israel-Gaza war "a genocide."

The next day, protesters shouting "Cease-fire now!" and "Let Gaza live!" interrupted the Senate primary victory speech of Rep. Adam Schiff (D-Calif.), forcing him to cut short his ebullient remarks.

And before the annual State of the Union address, protesters wearing black shirts blaring "Biden's legacy = genocide" and carrying oversized banners locked arms to shut down a swath of Pennsylvania Avenue — forcing President Biden's motorcade to take an alternate route to the Capitol to avoid the demonstration.

Ever since Hamas's deadly Oct. 7 attack on Israel and Israel's military response, protesters calling for an immediate cease-fire and an

SEE PROTESTERS ON A10



JAE C. HONG/AP

A pro-Palestinian demonstrator yells at a supporter of Rep. Adam Schiff (D-Calif.) on March 5 in Los Angeles. Protesters forced Schiff to cut short his speech celebrating his Senate primary win.

U.S. sets tough limits on gas cars

BIDEN'S BIGGEST CLIMATE ACTION

Emissions rules are bid to speed up shift to EVs

BY MAXINE JOSELOW

The Biden administration finalized the United States' toughest limits on planet-warming emissions from passenger cars and light trucks Wednesday, in a controversial bid to accelerate the nation's halting transition to electric vehicles.

The Environmental Protection Agency rule — President Biden's most far-reaching climate regulation yet — will require automakers to ramp up sales of electric vehicles while slashing carbon emissions from gasoline-powered models, which account for about one-fifth of America's contribution to global warming.

But unlike last year's proposed rule, automakers will not need to dramatically boost electric vehicle (EV) sales until after 2030. The delayed timeline reflects an election-year concession to labor unions, a key Democratic constituency that has raised concerns about a rapid shift to EVs.

In another change from the proposal, automakers could comply by boosting sales of plug-in hybrid vehicles in addition to all-electric vehicles. Plug-in

SEE EMISSIONS ON A9

'Fantasy': Oil executives dismiss fossil fuel phaseout projection. **A19**

Trump, in a cash jam, loath to file bankruptcy

Maneuver could alleviate fiscal difficulties but hurt image as business tycoon

BY JONATHAN O'CONNELL AND JOSH DAWSEY

As Donald Trump faces dwindling options to pay off a massive fine imposed as a result of losing a fraud case in New York, financial experts say filing for bankruptcy would provide one clear way out of his financial jam.

But Trump is not considering that approach, partially out of concern that it could damage his campaign to recapture the White House from President Biden in November, according to four people close to the former president, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to describe sensitive discussions about Trump's finances. Even though bankruptcy could alleviate his immediate cash crunch, it also carries risks for a candidate who has marketed himself as a winning businessman — and whose greatest appeal to voters, some advisers say, is his financial success.

SEE TRUMP ON A4

Documents case: Judge's recent order baffles legal experts. **A3**

IN THE NEWS

Georgia wilderness A broad, vocal coalition is fighting a proposal to allow mining near the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge, saying the risks to the swamp are too great. **A8**

Federal Reserve The central bank left rates steady, as expected, and did not give a specific timeline for upcoming cuts. **A19**

THE NATION

The U.S. fell to 23rd in a world happiness index, the first time it's not in the top 20. **A2**
The House raced to finish a \$1.2 trillion funding bill, with the speaker touting GOP wins. **A6**

THE WORLD

Paris is pulling back on its "Games Wide Open" as Olympics security concerns mount. **A13**
Gaza cease-fire talks faltered in Qatar ahead of a planned Israeli offensive in Rafah. **A14**

THE ECONOMY

Discount grocers including Aldi and Dollar General, sensing opportunity amid rising prices, are planning massive expansions. **A18**
The Biden administration awarded \$8.5 billion in grants to Intel for new U.S. computer chip plants. **A19**

THE REGION

After talks, Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin (R) and Sen. Louis Lucas (D) remain at odds over a sports arena. **B1**
Officials at Maryland's UMBC campus left students vulnerable to sexual abuse by a coach, a Justice Department investigation found. **B1**

STYLE

With the growing cost of getting your hair done at a salon, some customers feel that they're getting fleeced. **C1**

LOCAL LIVING

Does vinegar live up to its reputation as a natural cleaning agent? Ten things you can — and can't — clean with it.

BUSINESS NEWS.....	A18
COMICS.....	C6
OPINION PAGES.....	A21
OBITUARIES.....	B4
TELEVISION.....	C3
WORLD NEWS.....	A13

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