

Mostly sunny 84/67 • Tomorrow: Partly sunny 83/68 B6

Democracy Dies in Darkness

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Rule to protect retirees in limbo

Blocked regulation would require financial advisers to put clients' needs first

BY TONY ROMM

To protect older Americans' life savings, President Joe Biden pledged in October to crack down on financial advisers who recommend investments just because they pay higher commissions. Then the insurance industry got to work.

Lobbying groups representing New York Life, Lincoln Financial Group, Prudential Financial and other companies first pushed back against the newly proposed regulations before suing to topple them entirely.

Now the government's latest attempt to protect retirees is in political and legal limbo, facing the possibility that it may never take effect.

It is the latest example of a pervasive pattern: As the Biden administration tries to impose new restrictions on powerful industries, those businesses successfully turn to Congress and the courts for a reprieve. This time, the resulting clash centers on a basic question: Should federal law require more financial professionals to put retirees' needs above all else — including their own paychecks — when they offer advice about how to invest?

SEE RETIREMENT ON A5

Musk's X posts veer from Tesla to Trump

Billionaire increasingly uses his feed to amplify right-wing politics

BY FAIZ SIDDIQUI AND JEREMY B. MERRILL

If you followed Elon Musk on Twitter in November 2021, you would have been bombarded with posts about Tesla and SpaceX, his two most valuable companies. A third of his tweets mentioned them — such as posts about Tesla's Cybertruck, its "Full Self-Driving" software and his frustrations with the pandemic-related "supply chain nightmare."

Nearly three years later, with Musk at the helm of the site he renamed X, the billionaire's feed often reads more like a right-wing activist account, with alarmist posts about immigration and misuses against "woke" ideology. He still posts frequently about Tesla, but the share of his posts about the company is less than half of what it was in November 2021. This year, political tweets made up 17 percent of his feed, an analysis by The Washington Post found — skyrocketing up from 2 percent in 2021.

Musk's openly partisan participation on the site he bought in October 2022 reflects a broader evolution in his public persona from business-minded tech prodigy to right-wing firebrand. It has

SEE MUSK ON A8



JABIN BOTSFORD/THE WASHINGTON POST

One of the artistic portions of the Closing Ceremonies of the Paris Olympics at the Stade de France in Saint-Denis.

Sticking the landing

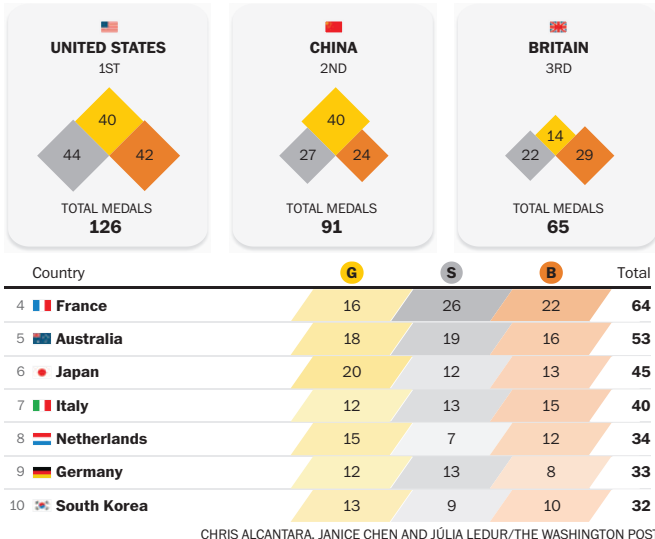
French officials went for the gold with an ambitious Olympic plan — and mostly succeeded

BY RICK NOACK

PARIS — France's plan for the 2024 Olympics was a gamble fraught with risks. For the most part, the big bets paid off.

Before the Games got underway, there were concerns about potential terrorist attacks, cyberattacks, crowd crushes, labor strikes, political tensions, heat waves, bedbugs and the viability of hosting swimming competitions in the Seine. It didn't help that a different daring gamble by President Emmanuel Macron — to stake his party's future on early legislative elections — resulted in political chaos as international athletes and fans were about

Countries with the most medals at the Paris Olympics



to arrive.

Polling by Ifop, an international polling and market research firm, in mid-July found more than two-thirds of adults in France were indifferent, worried or angry about the coming Olympic Games. When Ipsos surveyed 33 countries about their enthusiasm for the Olympics, France was near the bottom of the charts.

And yet well before the Closing Ceremonies at the Stade de France on Sunday, the chorus of critics had hushed.

Paris managed to awe visitors and viewers with spectacular venues, which showcased some of the city's most

SEE OLYMPICS ON A9

Steady course as war looms

HEZBOLLAH PRESSES ON AGAINST ISRAEL

Militants call shots as top military force in Lebanon

BY KAREEM FAHIM AND MOHAMAD EL CHAMAA

WADI JILO, LEBANON — An Israeli strike that killed a Hezbollah fighter traveling a rural road here earlier this month left a blasted car, a scorched patch of earth and the Israeli claim that the attack had dealt a "significant blow" to its enemy across the border.

But there seemed to be plenty of young men willing to take the place of the fighter, Ali Abdul Ali, in his hometown in southern Lebanon, less than two miles from the spot where he was killed. They were seen crowding around his flower-decked coffin in footage of his funeral, where local grief and anger mingled with the party supporters' zeal. "Hezbollah!" they chanted.

Ten months after entering the conflict between Israel and its ally Hamas, Hezbollah, the Lebanese militant group and political party, appears undeterred after absorbing withering blows from Israeli strikes and the killing of nearly 400 fighters and commanders. Hezbollah has only paused its strikes into northern Israel once, back in November. More recently, it has ratcheted up the intensity of its attacks and broadened its list of targets to include Israeli towns it said it had not previously hit.

Hezbollah's persistence has bedeviled the Biden administration, Israel's principal ally. U.S. efforts

SEE HEZBOLLAH ON A11

A chance at a shift after hard-line dominance

In a Michigan county, the opposition mobilized to fight Trump-style politics

BY PATRICK MARLEY AND GREG JAFFE

PARK TOWNSHIP, MICH. — For much of the last two years, American politics at its most divisive, ideological and angry had dominated the previously unremarkable work of county government in the place that Jim Barry called home.

Now it was primary day, and the voters of Ottawa County, a fast-growing, middle-class community of about 300,000 people on the shores of Lake Michigan, were headed to the polls.

Barry, who described himself as a moderate in the mold of former president and Michigan Republican Gerald Ford, was running for a seat on the 11-member county board and hoping that voters in Ottawa, which former



KRISTEN NORMAN FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Jim Barry and his wife, Liza, campaign for last-minute votes in his bid for a seat on the county board in Ottawa County, Mich. Barry was hoping voters might be ready to embrace a different kind of politics.

president Donald Trump had carried in 2020 by 21 percentage points, might be ready to embrace a different kind of politics.

"I'm not sure Ronald Reagan could pass some of the conservative purity tests in the modern era," Barry said.

He was standing on a busy street corner wearing a red, white and blue football jersey that said, "Elect Jim Barry" and waving a

sign with the same message. Some drivers honked and gave him a thumbs-up. Others scowled. His wife thought she spotted his opponent, who lived nearby, amid the thrum of traffic.

In 2022, eight hard-line Republicans, channeling Trump-style anger over pandemic-era mask mandates, had won seats on the board, defeating more moderate GOP candidates. The

new commissioners had swept into office promising to "thwart tyranny" and defend the county from dark forces that had supposedly infiltrated their local government to promote abortion, sexualize the county's children and corrupt its deeply held Christian morals.

The transformation made Ottawa a case study in what happens

SEE OTTAWA ON A6

Plans for protest at DNC move forward

Pro-Gaza organizers say ticket switch won't affect showing of anger, dissent

BY YASMEEN ABUTALEB

BRIDGEVIEW, ILL. — The scenes and stench that greeted Hamza AbdulQader when he crossed Egypt's border into Gaza in mid-March were far worse than the devastating videos he had watched as war raged in the territory.

AbdulQader, a critical care nurse and resident of "Little Palestine" — a community outside Chicago that is home to one of the country's largest concentrations of Palestinian Americans — volunteered in Gaza after watching videos of children suffering and dying there. But he said nothing could prepare him for what he saw: overcrowded hospitals, destitute people lying in the streets, tent cities as far as the eye could see.

SEE GAZA ON A16

IN THE NEWS

Election interference A reported hack of the Trump campaign may indicate wider efforts to disrupt the 2024 vote, experts warned. A2

Walz on firearms The vice-presidential nominee has gone from a congressman with an "A" rating from the National Rifle Association to an advocate of gun control. A7

THE NATION A pivotal case in the CIA's #MeToo movement heads to trial. A3
The aerial firefighting business co-founded by Montana GOP Senate candidate Tim Sheehy is losing millions. A4

Kamala Harris backed ending taxes on tips, after a similar pledge by Donald Trump. A4

THE WORLD Paris's handling of the Olympics holds lessons for Los Angeles. A10

THE ECONOMY "Smart" technology is out of control, Shira Ovide writes. Try these simpler devices. A13

THE REGION Police cannot hold on to people's possessions indefinitely after an arrest, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit ruled. B1

A judge ordered the latest person charged in a series of gold bar frauds in Montgomery County held in jail. B1
A country music fan helps deaf and hard of hearing people enjoy their favorite artists live by interpreting their music into American Sign Language. B1

STYLE In most election cycles, animal-related coverage has typically been limited to stories about cute pets. Not so during this campaign. C1
At the Summer Games, first lady Jill Biden handed the baton to second gentleman Doug Emhoff. C1

BUSINESS NEWS.....A13
COMICS.....C6
OBITUARIES.....B4
OPINION PAGES.....A14
TELEVISION.....C4
WORLD NEWS.....A9

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