



Windy, very cold 27/20 • Tomorrow: Sunny 33/16 B6

Democracy Dies in Darkness

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ELECTION 2024

Trump takes aim at Haley's birth name

Racially charged taunt reflects escalating attacks ahead of N.H. primary

BY AMY B WANG, MAEGAN VAZQUEZ AND AZI PAYBARAH

Former president Donald Trump is lobbying racially charged attacks at Republican rival Nikki Haley, a daughter of Indian immigrants who served as his U.N. ambassador, days before a hotly contested New Hampshire primary that could determine the trajectory of the party's nominating contest.

In a lengthy post on his social media platform Friday, Trump gave his GOP rival a nickname that appeared to be yet another racist dog whistle.

Writing on Truth Social, Trump repeatedly referred to Haley as "Nimbra," an apparent intentional misspelling of her birth name. Haley, whose parents moved to the United States in the 1960s, was born Nimarata Nikki Randhawa.

Reminiscent of his spurious claims about former president Barack Obama's citizenship, Trump also last week spread a false "birther" claim about Haley

SEE HALEY ON A6

Memory: Trump recalls elements of test that may not have existed. A6

Prosecutor in Trump case bought flights for Willis

Filing may buttress a co-defendant's claims of an improper relationship

BY AMY GARDNER AND HOLLY BAILEY

The lead prosecutor in the election interference case against former president Donald Trump paid for at least two airline trips with embattled Fulton County District Attorney Fani T. Willis (D) while the investigation was underway, according to bank statements filed in his divorce case Friday.

The bank statements may corroborate an accusation leveled against Willis and prosecutor Nathan Wade by one of Trump's co-defendants that they have been engaged in an improper personal relationship. The statements were part of a filing by lawyers for Wade's estranged wife, Joycelyn Mayfield Wade, in an effort to compel Willis to testify in the divorce proceeding, which the district attorney sought to avoid in a separate filing on Thursday.

Nathan Wade purchased tickets for himself and Willis on two occasions, according to the statements — a trip to Miami purchased in October 2022 on American Airlines, and a second trip purchased in April 2023 to San Francisco on Delta Air Lines.

Former Trump campaign aide Mike Roman, who is charged alongside Trump in the Georgia

SEE WILLIS ON A12

Second round of snowfall drapes D.C. area with fresh flakes



VALERIE PLESCH FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Snow blankets Meridian Hill Park in Northwest Washington on Friday. The snow caused school closures and triggered a two-hour work delay for federal agencies. Many residents flocked to the park to enjoy the rare winter weather, making snow angels, playing with snowballs or taking their pets on walks. **Story, B1**

A cold-case killing, a confession — then a mistrial

Attorney says defendant 'was just parroting back' what Md. detectives said

BY DAN MORSE

Looking to solve a 51-year-old mystery, investigators knocked on the apartment door in Upstate New York.

"Are you Larry?" one of them asked.

"Yeah," answered Larry Smith, 70 years old and just over 5 feet tall.

He allowed the group inside and they exchanged pleasantries. "We're actually looking for some help from you," a detective said,

coaxing Smith to come with them.

The 2022 encounter, recorded by the detectives, represented another mesmerizing turn in the long-unsolved investigation of a slain Maryland sheriff's deputy from 1971. The detectives took Smith, who had lived in Maryland as a younger man, to a nearby police station and interviewed him for nearly four hours.

The first two hours involved a lot of chitchat. Smith spoke about his life: Adopted by age 7, living on the streets by age 16 and his move about 10 years later to New York state. Smith married twice, had four kids and held jobs as a security guard and nursing home aide. "God bless you," a de-

fective offered.

She slowly brought up the 1971 case, when Smith was just 19 years old, and said old case files they found indicated he possibly witnessed what happened. If the shooting wasn't done on purpose, they told him, it wasn't really murder.

"I would never intentionally try to shoot anybody," Smith finally told Detective Lisa Killen. "Are you saying that you accidentally shot the sheriff?" Killen asked.

Smith's answers and admissions led authorities to charge him with intentional, first-degree murder, alleging he shot sheriff's deputy James Hall in the head in a dark parking lot after the deputy had confronted Smith and



James Hall

at least one other person outside a home they'd just broken into. Smith was brought to Montgomery County. And the case went to trial there this month, offering a window to the limits of police work five decades ago: no DNA, no surveillance camera footage, no cellphone records.

Jurors instead were asked by prosecutors to focus on Smith's statements to detectives and those he made afterward to his daughter and son. Defense attorneys countered that any admissions Smith made were meaningless because they'd been coaxed from someone with a faulty and aging memory. On Wednesday, after three days of deliberations, jurors said they couldn't reach a unanimous verdict, resulting in a

SEE SHOOTING ON A4

Settlers killed Palestinian teen. Israeli forces didn't stop it.

Post analysis shows troops within earshot of village did not arrive until attack on home was over



PALPOST

Settlers descend on a home in the Palestinian village of Qusra on Oct. 11, in what is now the deadliest settler attack in the West Bank since Oct. 7. Three Palestinians, including a 17-year-old, were killed.

This article is by Nilo Tabrizy, Joyce Sohyun Lee, Meg Kelly, Hafez Abu Sabra and Shakked Auerbach

The threats were sent via Facebook on Oct. 9 to residents of Qusra, a Palestinian community in the Israeli-occupied West Bank: "To all the rats in the sewers of Qusra village we are waiting for you and we will have no mercy. The day of revenge is coming."

Two days later, on a sunny Wednesday afternoon, a group of masked and armed Israeli settlers struck the village in what would be the deadliest attack by settlers in the West Bank since the Israel-Gaza war began more than three months ago, according to data collected by Yesh Din, an Israeli rights organization that closely monitors the settlements.

A Washington Post review of exclusive visuals of the attack, medical records and interviews

SEE WEST BANK ON A10

In Israel: Deep divisions emerge in government over war strategy. A9

IN THE NEWS

Uvalde aftermath Legal experts say a report outlining the failings in the response to last year's school shooting is a road map to civil lawsuits. A2

March for Life Thousands gathered for the annual event, where messaging focused on a path forward and the 2024 election. B1

THE NATION

The Tree of Life synagogue began demolition at the site of the fatal 2018 shooting. A3
FEMA announced sweeping policy changes to expedite disbursement of disaster aid. A3

THE WORLD

North Korea's escalating rhetoric has experts wondering if Kim Jong Un is thinking of war. A8
Japan landed a robot on the moon, making it the fifth nation to reach the lunar surface. A10

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EV truckers are praising the switch from fuel, but some firms say electric aren't ready for prime time. A11
Aside from the IRS's new Direct File software, there are a number of options that allow Americans to file their taxes free. A13

THE REGION

Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin promised increased Metro funding to two Democrats who filed bills for an Alexandria sports arena. B1
Maryland legislators are proposing a gun and ammunition tax that would feed into a fund for trauma injuries. B1

STYLE

The 'ladies who lunch' look is this year's unexpected fashion trend for Hollywood. C1

SPORTS

Sports Illustrated, the once-iconic magazine, faces an uncertain future amid layoffs and a management dispute. D1

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Feeling sunnier on the economy

OPTIMISM UP AGAIN IN CONSUMER POLL

Rising sentiment may be good news for Biden

BY ABHA BHATTARAI AND JEFF STEIN

It appears Americans are finally feeling better about the economy.

Consumer sentiment, a window into the nation's financial mood, jumped 13 percent in January to its highest level since mid-2021, reflecting optimism that inflation is easing and incomes are rising, according to a closely watched survey by the University of Michigan. Since November, consumer sentiment has risen 29 percent, marking the largest two-month increase in more than 30 years.

Gas prices, often a key driver of sentiment, have fallen 40 percent since June 2022, to just over \$3 a gallon. Weekly jobless claims are at their lowest level in more than a year. Sales of cars, clothing and sporting goods all picked up during the holidays, as consumers felt confident enough to keep spending.

SEE CONSUMERS ON A14

Closing record: The S&P 500 finished the day at a high. A14

Emissions limits come with risks for Biden

EPA cites health benefits, but manufacturing could suffer in crucial states

BY MAXINE JOSELOW

The Environmental Protection Agency is preparing to significantly strengthen limits on fine particle matter, one of the nation's most widespread deadly air pollutants, even as industry groups warn that the standard could erase manufacturing jobs across the country.

Several major companies, trade associations and some Democratic lobbyists are trying to preempt the rule by suggesting it could harm President Biden's reelection chances in key swing states. They say the tougher standard for soot and other pollutants could destroy factory jobs and investments in the Midwest and elsewhere, undermining Biden's pitch that he has revitalized these areas more than Donald Trump, the GOP presidential front-runner.

Public health advocates strongly disagree with the industry's assertions. They say strengthening the soot standard would yield significant medical and economic benefits by preventing thousands of hospitalizations, lost workdays and lost lives, particularly in communities of color that are disproportionately exposed to unhealthy

SEE SOOT ON A12