

‘Bogus accusation’: U.S. journalist’s trial begins in Russia



Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich, who has been detained since his arrest 15 months ago, stands in a glass cage Wednesday for his closed-door trial on espionage charges in Yekaterinburg, Russia. Gershkovich, the White House and his employer have deemed the charges baseless. He faces up to 20 years in prison. **Story, A11**

Justices to allow Idaho abortions in emergency cases

OPINION BRIEFLY PUBLISHES ON SITE

Court poised to keep procedure as litigation continues

BY ANN E. MARIMOW

The Supreme Court would allow emergency abortion care in Idaho for now despite the state’s restrictions on the procedure, according to a copy of a not-yet-released opinion posted by Bloomberg Law after it briefly appeared on the court’s website Wednesday.

The decision, which has not been announced, would mean that while litigation makes its way through the courts, hospitals could perform emergency abortions to stabilize patients without being subject to prosecution under Idaho’s abortion ban.

Although the justices did not rule on the merits of the case, their decision amounts to at least a temporary victory for the Biden administration, which has struggled to protect abortion access since the high court overturned

Roe v. Wade two years ago.

According to a copy of the opinion, the court’s ruling would reinstate a lower-court decision that had allowed emergency abortion care while the case continues. The court had paused that lower court ruling months ago, in an emergency action, before hearing arguments in the matter in April.

It is extremely rare — perhaps unprecedented — for a Supreme Court ruling to be posted on the court’s website before the ruling is issued, and it is possible that the document that was posted could differ from the opinion when it is announced. The momentous decision overturning *Roe*, known as *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization*, **SEE ABORTION ON A18**

Bribery case: Decision further weakens corruption laws. **A18**

Conservative lawsuits undo diversity programs

BY PETER WHORISKEY AND JULIAN MARK

Right-leaning public interest groups have filed a barrage of federal lawsuits intended to dismantle long-standing corporate and government programs that consider race in awarding jobs and other perks, and their litigation already is eroding the use of affirmative action in an array of American institutions.

One year after the Supreme Court struck down race-based admissions at Harvard and other schools, court rulings have forced

Legal campaign is forcing both public and private entities to halt initiatives

the removal of racial preferences from two major covid relief programs, a federal contracting program that doles out \$20 billion a year, and even the U.S. Minority Business Development Agency, a 55-year-old agency that was ordered in March to open its doors to all races. Meanwhile, private

companies are acting preemptively, seeking to avoid litigation by terminating fellowships and executive bonus programs aimed at employing minorities.

“The goal is complete race neutrality. That is the end goal of all this litigation,” said Daniel Lenington, a lawyer for the Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty (WILL). “It’s a view of radical equality that we think is in line with the Declaration of Independence.”

Encouraged by the Supreme Court’s conservative majority, WILL and other groups have filed

more than 100 lawsuits since 2021 challenging racial preferences and other efforts to address demographic disparities in business, government and education, according to a Washington Post tally based on news articles, law firm newsletters and interviews.

More lawsuits are in the pipeline. Through social media, the conservative legal groups are urging anyone with a gripe about racial preferences to give them a call.

“Wherever you live, if you’ve been treated differently because **SEE DIVERSITY ON A16**

BY ANN E. MARIMOW AND CAT ZAKRZEWSKI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday rejected a Republican-led effort to sharply restrict White House officials and other federal employees from pressuring social media companies to remove posts from their platforms that the U.S. government deems problematic, saying the challengers did not have legal standing to bring the case.

State leaders in Missouri and Louisiana, in addition to individual social media users, filed a law-

suit accusing the Biden administration of violating the First Amendment by operating a sprawling federal “censorship enterprise” to improperly influence platforms to modify or take down posts related to public health and elections.

In a 6-3 ruling, the court said the states and individuals could not show they were directly harmed by the communication between federal officials and social media platforms.

Writing for the court’s majority, Justice Amy Coney Barrett said **SEE SOCIAL MEDIA ON A18**

ELECTION 2024

‘Deciders’ trust Trump over Biden on saving democracy

Poll shows swing-state voters may not be getting Democrats’ message

BY COLBY ITKOWITZ, EMILY GUSKIN AND SCOTT CLEMENT

President Biden and his Democratic allies have cast his reelection campaign as a battle for the country’s survival, warning that a second Donald Trump presidency would present an existential threat to American democracy.

In speeches and campaign ads, Biden points to Trump’s efforts to overturn the results of the 2020 election, his incitement of an angry mob that ransacked the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, and the former president’s boasts that he will use the powers of his office to punish his political enemies.

But that message may not be resonating with the voters Biden needs in order to win another term in the White House.

In six swing states that Biden narrowly won in 2020, a little more than half of voters classified as likely to decide the presidential

election say threats to democracy are extremely important to their vote for president, according to a poll by The Washington Post and the Schar School of Policy and Government at George Mason University.

Yet, more of them trust Trump to handle those threats than Biden. And most believe that the guardrails in place to protect democracy would hold even if a dictator tried to take over the country.

The results offer troubling indicators for Biden, who needs voters who may be unenthusiastic about his candidacy to decide they must reject Trump to preserve America’s system of representative government.

“Many Americans don’t recognize Biden’s custodianship of our democracy, which is a bad sign for his campaign,” said Justin Gest, a professor of policy and government at George Mason University.

The poll surveyed the views of 3,513 registered voters in Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, Nevada, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin in April and May. Of those surveyed, 2,255 were classified as “Deciders” — those who fit into one or more categories: They voted in only one of the past two **SEE DECIDERS ON A7**

Presidential debate: Follow tonight’s developments with live updates leading up to and throughout the 9 p.m. event at [washingtonpost.com](https://www.washingtonpost.com)



KYLE GREEN FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Pride comes to Canyon County

An Idaho town’s festival faced threats. Then the unexpected happened.

BY CASEY PARKS

NAMPA, IDAHO — In the beginning, Tom Wheeler didn’t expect he would need a fence. He wanted to give Canyon County, Idaho, its first Pride celebration, and when he imagined that day, he pictured a park without barriers, an open space where everyone was welcome.

But then the mayor said the event conflicted with her beliefs, and angry residents called for a protest. Wheeler was a real estate agent from

Boise, an out-of-towner, and worse, gay.

Far-right extremists had already targeted another small-town Idaho Pride, and now, Wheeler’s event seemed to be at risk, too. His mother begged him to stay home. An uncle urged him to wear a bulletproof vest. At the very least, local officers said, he might want a barricade.

Now, the crews were here with 700 feet of six-foot-tall metal fencing, and Wheeler, a 27-year-old who’d chosen not a bulletproof vest but a **SEE PRIDE ON A6**

A drag queen performs for the crowd at the first-ever Pride festival in Nampa, Idaho, on June 9.

Trump allies test tactics for blocking voting results

BY AMY GARDNER, PATRICK MARLEY AND COLBY ITKOWITZ

When a member of Georgia’s Fulton County Board of Registration and Elections refused to join her colleagues as they certified two primaries this year, she claimed she had been denied her right to examine a long list of election records for signs of fraud or other issues.

Now the board member, Julie Adams, an avowed believer in the false theory that the 2020 election was stolen from former president Donald Trump, is suing the board, hoping a judge will affirm that right and potentially empower others in similar positions elsewhere to hold up the outcome of elections.

To voting rights activists, election law specialists and Democrats, such actions represent an ominous sign that could presage a chaotic aftermath to the 2024 election. They are particularly worried about the threat of civil unrest or violence, especially if certification proceeds amid protests or efforts to block it.

Adams swore in her lawsuit that she “swore an oath to **SEE ELECTION ON A4**

IN THE NEWS

‘Righting historic wrongs’ President Biden pardoned thousands of veterans convicted of having gay sex while in the military. **A3**

Paris Olympics Organizers, in their pursuit of a smaller carbon footprint, planned for athlete dorms without air conditioning. Visiting nations are giving the idea a cold shoulder. **A9**

THE NATION Illegal southern border crossings have fallen since President Biden’s asylum order. **A2** The defendant in an Illinois July Fourth mass killing reversed plans to plead guilty. **A2**

THE WORLD The next U.S. president will be at least 15 years older than the median for global leaders. **A10** Soldiers in Bolivia stormed the government plaza as officials warned of a “coup.” **A13**

THE ECONOMY Whoever is the next president will probably have little effect on the ballooning national debt, experts said. **A14** A federal judge rejected a settlement that would have capped the swipe fees that Visa and Mastercard charge to merchants. **A14**

THE REGION Authorities offered a \$10 million reward for the whereabouts of a Russian national allegedly linked to a cyber-attack on Ukraine. **B1** A \$14.5 million restoration for the Washington National Cathedral’s organ and its 10,000-plus pipes has begun. **B1**

STYLE FX’s breakout hit “The Bear” is back for its third season. But will it stay true to its roots as it chases greatness? **C1**

LOCAL LIVING Behind the scenes — and the appraisals — in the Baltimore taping of the hit PBS program “Antiques Roadshow.”

BUSINESS NEWS.....A14 COMICS.....C6 OBITUARIES.....B4 OPINION PAGES.....A19 TELEVISION.....C4 WORLD NEWS.....A10

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0 170628 21100 3