

Court takes up Trump's ballot case in Colorado

Justices face pivotal but thorny discussion with echoes of Bush v. Gore

BY ANN E. MARIMOW
AND PATRICK MARLEY

The Supreme Court said Friday that it will decide whether former president Donald Trump's name can appear on primary election ballots, scheduling arguments just five weeks from now in a case that will have a major impact on this year's presidential election.

Colorado's top court disqualified the Republican front-runner from the ballot last month, finding that he engaged in an insurrection before and during the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol. Similar arguments have been made to keep Trump off the ballot in other states.

While some of those challenges have failed, including in Michigan and Minnesota, the efforts are still pending in Illinois, Oregon, Massachusetts and elsewhere. Maine's top election official last month barred Trump from that ballot, an order that the former president has appealed in state court.

Friday's announcement puts the justices in a pivotal, and potentially uncomfortable, position with echoes of the court's involvement in the 2000 election — when its decision assuring victory for George W. Bush polarized the nation and damaged the court's reputation as an independent institution.

The court's brief order scheduled oral arguments for Feb. 8 and came a day before the third

SEE COURT ON A5

Abortion battle: High court will hear a challenge to Idaho's ban. **A4**

NRA chief steps down ahead of fraud trial

Wayne LaPierre, other top executives accused of corruption in N.Y. suit

BY BETH REINHARD,
SILVIA FOSTER-FRAU
AND JUSTINE MCDANIEL

Longtime National Rifle Association chief executive Wayne LaPierre, who built the organization into a political juggernaut that repelled firearm limits even in the face of ceaseless mass shootings, stepped down Friday on the eve of a courtroom battle over allegations that he looted the nonprofit's coffers to bankroll a lavish lifestyle.

LaPierre's departure further clouds the future of the NRA, long viewed as one of the nation's most fearsome lobbying groups, but hamstrung in recent years by declining revenue, spiraling legal fees, and an exodus of staff and board members. A jury trial in which New York Attorney General Letitia James (D) is accusing LaPierre and other top executives of corruption and fraud is scheduled to begin Monday.

James asserted that LaPierre's departure would not save him

SEE LAPIERRE ON A8



PHOTOS BY HEIDI LEVINE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Children from communities evacuated near the Israel-Lebanon border do school work Tuesday outside their hotel in Migdal, Israel. The evacuated area has become a closed military zone, with Israeli soldiers and Hezbollah fighters trading fire over the border.

Wary Israelis look to Lebanese border, fearing new kind of battle with Hezbollah

Oct. 7 prompted the evacuation of 70,000 residents, many of whom lack faith in their government

BY SHIRA RUBIN

EILON, ISRAEL — For years, David Shtift tried to convince the Israeli army that Hezbollah militants, a mile away in Lebanon, would make good on their threats to attack Israel.

Shtift and his neighbors said they saw Hezbollah special forces massing along the border and establishing lookout posts in structures allegedly built for environmental protection. Sometimes, they heard what sounded like the digging of underground tunnels. The army claimed Israel's enemies were deterred, its borders impenetrable.

But the kibbutz, unwilling to take chances, rounded up money and drafted contingency plans — buying long guns for its 25-member local defense unit, securing emergency sources for water and electricity, and building a military clinic.

On Oct. 7, when thousands of fighters led by Hamas — the Gaza-based militant group with increasingly close ties to Hezbollah — breached Israel's southern border, slaughtering 1,200 people and taking 240 more hostage, Shtift sensed, bitterly, that Eilon residents had been right to worry.

SEE ISRAEL ON A11

Hezbollah: Leader hints at future border talks with Israel. **A11**



Rachel Rabin, sister of slain prime minister Yitzhak Rabin, with daughter Tirtsa Valentine. Rabin was evacuated from her home.

Biden warns of 2024 stakes

TRUMP THREATENS DEMOCRACY, HE SAYS

President cites Jan. 6 riot ahead of 3rd anniversary

BY MATT VISER

BLUE BELL, PA. — President Biden on Friday delivered his first campaign speech of this election year, attempting to define the 2024 presidential race as a battle for the future of American democracy and portray former president Donald Trump as its chief antagonist.

In remarks that cast the future of the country in stark and dire terms — focusing more tightly on his predecessor than perhaps in any other speech in his presidency — Biden framed his campaign in sweeping language. “Today we’re here to answer the most important of questions: Is democracy still America’s sacred cause?” he said. “It’s what the 2024 election is all about.”

Biden spoke at a community college about 10 miles from Valley Forge National Historical Park, where George Washington mobilized troops during the Revolutionary War to fight for democracy some 250 years ago. The president's remarks came on the eve of the anniversary of the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection, when a Trump-inspired mob stormed the U.S. Capitol and attempted to prevent Biden from taking office despite his clear victory in the 2020 election.

SEE BIDEN ON A5

Activists cite victory in Harvard leader's fall

Gay's resignation is being held up as pivotal in movement against DEI

BY JULIAN MARK
AND TAYLOR TELFORD

The conservative victory laps began moments after Harvard University President Claudine Gay announced her resignation.

The trophy was not merely her resignation, a chain reaction that began with Gay's much-criticized comments about antisemitism on campus. Nor did it only concern allegations that Harvard's first Black president had plagiarized portions of her academic work. For conservative activists, her fall was a pivotal victory against diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) policies, a battleground where they have notched win after win in recent months against universities, private companies and several federal programs.

“This is the beginning of the end for DEI in America's institutions,” conservative activist Chris Rufo posted on X, formerly Twitter, just after the news broke Tuesday. “We will expose you. We

SEE HARVARD ON A13

Science is immortalizing Argentina's top polo horses

Cloning has become a multimillion-dollar industry, while raising ethical questions in the sport



SEBASTIÁN LÓPEZ BRACH FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Gabriel Vichera, director of the Kheiron Biotech lab, with three horses cloned by the company. Vichera said each year the lab clones about 100 horses, which can sell for upward of \$1 million.

BY SAMANTHA SCHMIDT

BUENOS AIRES — Moments before the world's top polo players prepared to compete in the world's most important polo tournament, the stars from two rival teams lined up on the field on horseback, mallets in hand, to pay homage to a champion.

Her name was Dolфина Cuartertera.

She was a legend in Argentina's polo Hall of Fame and winner of the most prestigious awards for horses in the sport. She was as fast as she was agile, as explosive as she was docile, a mare with the stamina and strength to outrun and outlast any other. As her owner, the world-renowned polo player Adolfo Cambiaso, put it: “She was genius; she was Messi, Maradona.”

Cuartertera wasn't at the Argentine polo championship this year. She died in May, at the age of 22. But the four representatives of the defending champion La Dolfina team — including Cambiaso and his son — sat atop horses that

SEE CLONES ON A10

IN THE NEWS

Capping off a year of gains U.S. employers added 216,000 jobs last month and 2.7 million overall in 2023. The unemployment rate remained at 3.7 percent. **A14**

Running for Congress Former police officer Harry Dunn, who defended the Capitol on Jan. 6, seeks a House seat in Maryland. **B1**

THE NATION

The dispute over the southern border could force a partial government shutdown. **A2**
The Justice Department reported a spike in threats against public servants. **A8**

THE WORLD

Elephants, bison and reindeer in Berlin were treated to a belated holiday feast when two truckloads of unsold Christmas trees landed in their zoo enclosures this week. **A9**

THE ECONOMY

Are AI firms within their rights to use newspapers' stories to train chatbots, or is it a violation of copyright? **A12**
The FDA approved a Florida program that would allow the state to import selected prescription drugs from Canada. **A13**

THE REGION

D.C.'s bond rating is at risk after city financial statements excluded the housing agency, a report said. **B1**
A marathoner's friends organized a race solely to help him continue a quarter-century-long streak of finishing a race in under three hours. **B1**

STYLE

Stanley cup fans are refusing to bottle up their obsession with the reusable drinkware brand. **C1**

SPORTS

The Preakness Stakes would remain at Pimlico Race Course under a new plan to renovate the dilapidated facility. **D1**

BUSINESS NEWS.....	A12
COMICS.....	C5
OPINION PAGES.....	A15
OBITUARIES.....	B4
TELEVISION.....	C3
WORLD NEWS.....	A9

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