

Manafort now on campaign ‘sidelines’

His work to aid a Chinese media deal complicates return to Trump’s orbit

BY ISAAC STANLEY-BECKER, BETH REINHARD AND JOSH DAWSEY

After pleading guilty to money laundering and obstruction of justice, Paul Manafort, the globe-trotting political consultant and former campaign chairman for Donald Trump, asked for leniency in his sentencing, telling a federal judge five years ago that he was nearly 70 years old, struggling with health concerns and remorseful for his actions.

The judge rejected his entreaties in the spring of 2019, ordering Manafort to remain behind bars for more than seven years. Less than two years later, however, Manafort’s criminal record was wiped clean when Trump pardoned him. He was among the dozens of allies, extended family members and former campaign staffers allowed to walk free.

With his freedom, Manafort hardly retired to a quiet home life. Instead, the longtime power broker — briefly brought low by the investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 election — reengaged in international consulting, according to documents obtained by The Washington Post and people familiar with his activities who spoke on the condition of anonymity because of the matter’s sensitivity.

Manafort has been assisting an effort to launch a Netflix-like movie service. SEE MANAFORT ON A6

Giuliani fired: An NYC talk-radio station cites 2020 falsehoods. A2



AFF/GETTY IMAGES

Palestinians flee Rafah for Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip on Saturday on the back of a tricycle laden with their belongings.

‘Bunker mentality’ at Columbia lit protest spark

BY ISAAC STANLEY-BECKER AND SUSAN SVRLUGA

Minouche Shafik, the president of Columbia University, was in Washington on April 17 when she logged in to Zoom to convene her deans.

Earlier in the day, pro-Palestinian demonstrators had erected a tent encampment on the Manhattan quad. They staged their protest just as Shafik — an economist and former vice president of the World Bank who was less than 10 months into her presidency — was preparing to testify before a House committee investigating Columbia and other uni-

As decision-making became centralized, enlistment of police set off campus confrontations nationwide

versities over their response to campus antisemitism inflamed by the Israel-Gaza war.

Hours later, she met with the deans remotely, people familiar with the meeting said, not to solicit advice or seek approval from the university leaders with vast responsibility over their respective schools, in charge of academics, discipline and public relations. Instead, she informed them of her plan: to call police

onto campus if the students refused to yield.

By the time she arrived back on campus the next day, Shafik had set in motion a series of events that would fuel protests throughout the country and turn her campus into the center of a national debate over speech, hate, complicity and university governance. This debate is unfolding against the backdrop of a bruising presidential campaign in-

creasingly intertwined with the aftershocks of the Hamas attacks of Oct. 7 and Israel’s ongoing war in Gaza.

Columbia, unlike many large universities, doesn’t have its own police force. Shafik’s decision to enlist the New York Police Department to clear the student encampment, made swiftly with only a handful of high-level advisers, came over the express disapproval of the university senate, a policymaking body representing faculty, students, administra-

SEE COLUMBIA ON A16

No confidence: More college presidents face referendums. A5

Rafah on the edge of assault

TENS OF THOUSANDS ORDERED TO FLEE

Invasion risks U.S. anger, shipments of weapons

BY LOVEDAY MORRIS, MIRIAM BERGER AND MOHAMAD EL CHAMAA

JERUSALEM — Israel ordered tens of thousands of people to leave Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip on Saturday, signaling an imminent push by Israeli forces into the city’s most urban districts, a move that could trigger the White House to freeze offensive weapons shipments.

The evacuation orders included crowded neighborhoods, a hospital and two refugee camps in central Rafah, where more than 1 million Palestinians had sought shelter from fighting elsewhere in the territory.

In the north, the Israel Defense Forces ordered residents of Jabalya and Beit Lahia to also evacuate, warning that it would act with “great force” against Hamas militants grouping in those areas.

More than 150,000 people had already fled Rafah last week, the United Nations said, after Israeli troops staged a lightning offensive east of the city to capture the border crossing with Egypt. According to Israeli military analysts, armored brigades in eastern Rafah are encircling the city.

SEE RAFAH ON A8

‘Extreme force’: U.S. offers gear, intelligence for softer strategy. A8

A mystery illness was linked to Down syndrome. These moms found answers.

BY RICHARD SIMA

Before Sara Smythe began to disappear, she was thriving.

The youngest of four sisters, Sara was born with Down syndrome and lived the life of an active teen. At 13, the Toledo student was heading to middle school and loved soccer and swim practice, took dance and karate classes, and was a Girl Scout.

But in 2011, everything changed in a matter of weeks. Sara morphed from a sociable teen to a person who stopped talking and engaging with other people, and, at her worst, had full-blown catatonia.

Sara’s doctors were at a loss, but her mother, Eileen Quinn, wasn’t giving up. She embarked on what would become a 13-year quest, harnessing the power of a mother’s love to push the scientific community to pay attention to the mysterious regressions that some young people with Down syndrome were experiencing.

“I think people just might have a bias that, well, this person already has a disability, so it’s not as important,” Quinn said. “It was just devastating to think that I had lost Sara. I mean, this kid who made us laugh out loud every single day was totally gone. And there was just a shell left.”

As she searched for treatments for her daughter, Quinn, a developmental pediatrician, SEE MOMS ON A12



SYLVIA JARRUS FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Sara Smythe, who was born with Down syndrome, with her mother, Eileen Quinn.



MATT MCCLAIN/THE WASHINGTON POST

On a D.C. sidewalk, a race to save a Marine general’s life

Eric M. Smith suffered cardiac arrest during a jog. A group of passersby helped him survive.

BY DAN LAMOTHE

Gen. Eric M. Smith stepped out on a warm, late-afternoon run last fall, pounding the pavement of Southeast Washington on a routine three-mile loop. As the top U.S. Marine, he had spent the morning cheering on participants in the annual Marine Corps Marathon, and wanted to squeeze in his own workout before taking his wife out to dinner.

It was Oct. 29. A few blocks away, Timothy and Joyce LaLonde concluded a celebratory post-race lunch and began the

walk back to Joyce’s nearby home. The siblings, accompanied by several family members, were shaken by what they encountered: A man facedown on the sidewalk — alone, unresponsive and bleeding from his mouth.

“Tim, come!” Joyce LaLonde recalled yelling to her brother. “Hurry!”

The ensuing scramble saved the life of the Marine Corps commandant, a father of two who had stepped into his new role on the Joint Chiefs of Staff just three months earlier. Smith, who turns

SEE GENERAL ON A14

Gen. Eric M. Smith, the commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps, was back to work about four months after suffering cardiac arrest.

METRO
Dog owners whose pets died in a flood sue a D.C. canine day-care facility.

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At the Olympics, Paris has plans for the Seine. But first, the tent camps.



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