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Democracy Dies in Darkness

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## Iran's new president, a reformer, courts U.S.

Surprise winner over ultraconservative wants 'new chapter' for all

BY SUSANNAH GEORGE

A little-known reformist and cardiac surgeon, Masoud Pezeshkian, defeated his ultraconservative rival to become the next president of Iran, campaigning on more social freedoms and engagement with the West and describing his victory as the start of "a new chapter" for the country.

In a speech Saturday, Pezeshkian, 69, vowed to be a leader for "all Iranians" and said the government must be held accountable and "move forward with reforms." He also acknowledged widespread public apathy — voter turnout was only 50 percent — and said he hopes to bring Iranians relief from U.S. sanctions and the threat of war.

"I have come ... to seek lasting peace and tranquility and cooperation in the region, as well as dialogue and constructive interaction with the world," Pezeshkian said from Tehran at the mausoleum of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution in 1979.

The candidate, a lawmaker from Tabriz, was one of six contenders approved by Iran's influential Guardian Council to run for the presidency after Ebrahim Raisi, who was elected in 2021, died in a helicopter crash in May.

Pezeshkian won the most votes

SEE IRAN ON A18

French election: Potentially the first far-right leader since WWII. A17

## NFL rookie and former teammates die in crash

Prince George's County football champions were 'outstanding young men'

BY TOM JACKMAN AND MICHAEL ERRIGO

Three former high school state champion football players from Prince George's County — including one just drafted into the NFL — were killed early Saturday when a speeding and possibly alcohol-impaired driver struck their car in Upper Marlboro, Maryland State Police said.

Those killed were Minnesota Vikings rookie Khryee Jackson, 24, and former teammates Anthony Lytton Jr., 24, and Isaiah Hazel, 23. They attended Wise High School in Upper Marlboro before going on to play Division 1-A college football. Jackson finished his college career at the University of Oregon and was drafted in the fourth round by Minnesota in April.

The three men played for coach DaLawn Parrish and won multiple state championships as Parrish built a dynasty at Wise, winning 43 straight games and three state titles from 2015 to 2018. When Parrish stepped down in January after winning six titles, Jackson, Lytton and Hazel all showed up at a surprise party for the departing coach,

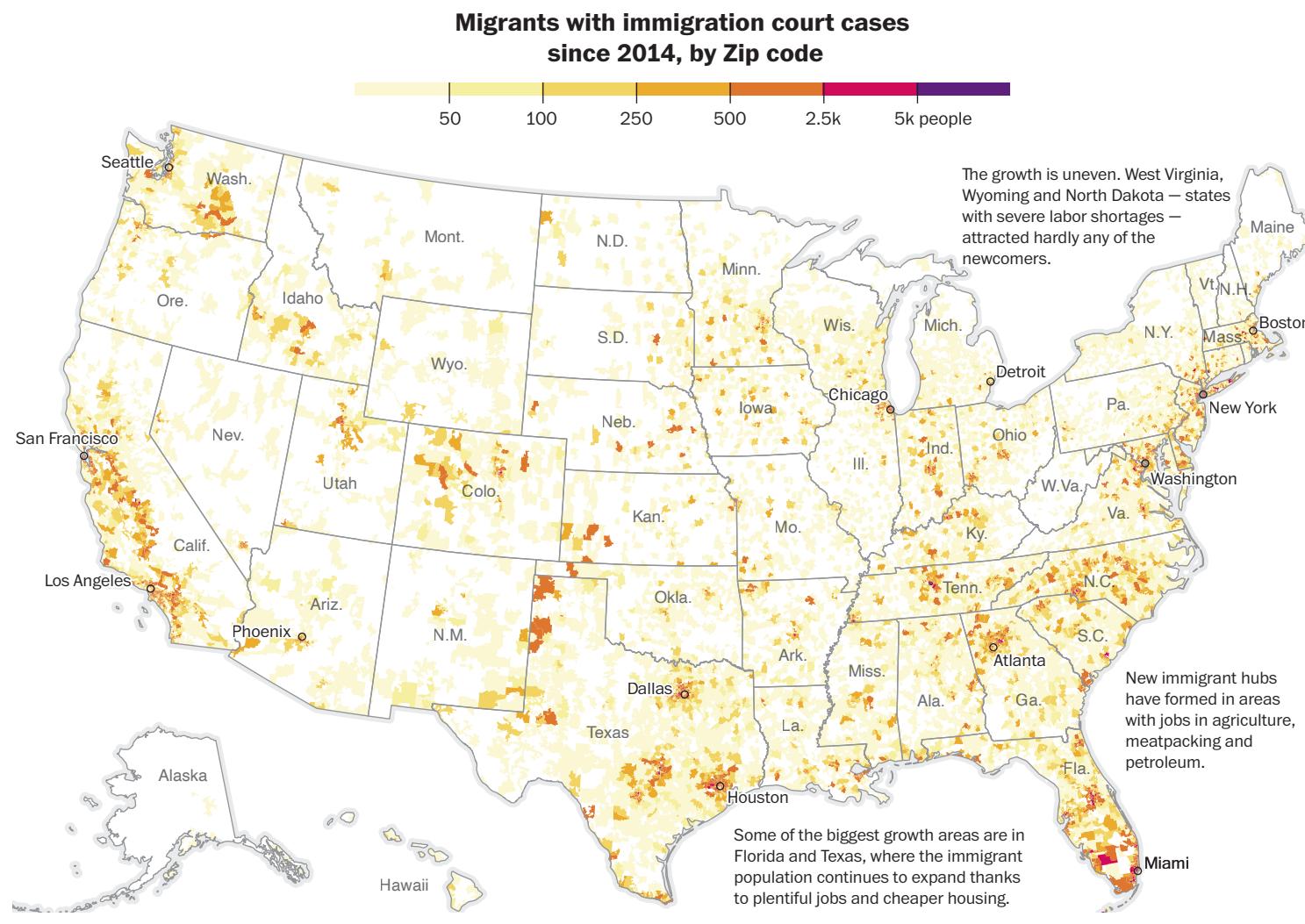
SEE CRASH ON A14

## METRO

The wrongful-death suit over a Maryland teen's suicide moves forward.

## SPORTS

After fleeing the Taliban, she'll breakdance on the Refugee Team in Paris.



## 4.1 million migrants: Where they're from, where they stay

The Post analyzed a decade of court records amid debate about U.S. border policies

BY ADRIÁN BLANCO, STEVEN RICH, NICK MIROFF AND MARIA SACCHETTI

The polarized immigration debate in the United States generally revolves around illegal crossings at the U.S.-Mexico border, but those numbers don't indicate what happens to these and other migrants who stay in the country. A Washington Post analysis of more than 4.1 million U.S. immigration court records from the past decade reveals a population that was once overwhelmingly Mexican and Central American but has in recent years spanned the globe. Far fewer migrants have gotten into the country than have been apprehended at the border, the data shows. And those who cleared that first hurdle — and are still facing possible deportation in the courts — have fanned out into every U.S. state.

SEE IMMIGRATION ON A12

## She took on a Miss. city's police. They arrested her.

The civil rights lawyer persuaded the Justice Department to investigate claims of abuses

BY ROBERT KLEMKO

LEXINGTON, MISS. — Handcuffed in the cramped lobby of the Lexington Police Department, standing eye-to-eye with the chief, Jill Collen Jefferson was given a choice. She had been arrested while filming a nighttime traffic stop in this county seat of roughly 1,500 people and four traffic signals. Pay a \$35 processing fee, the chief said, and we'll release you.

Days before, Jefferson had met with Justice Department investigators from Washington. She had hoped to turn their attention to this small-town police force, whose new, Black police chief, Charles Henderson, was accused of continuing the racist and discriminatory practices of the White commander he replaced.

Jefferson, 37, a Harvard-educated lawyer and former Obama administration speechwriter, declined Henderson's offer to let her go if she paid the fee. Instead

SEE MISSISSIPPI ON A6



Civil rights attorney Jill Collen Jefferson spent two days in jail in Lexington, Miss., after being arrested while filming a nighttime traffic stop by the city's police.

JOSHUA LOTT/THE WASHINGTON POST

## Biden digs in as walls close in

### PUSH FOR HIS EXIT IS GAINING STEAM

President makes clear he won't go without a fight

BY MATT VISER AND SHANE HARRIS

President Biden, in both words and actions, has made clear that he has little intention of quickly or quietly leaving the presidential race without a protracted and public battle.

On Saturday, that battle showed signs of intensifying.

Rep. Angie Craig (D-Minn.), who is in a competitive race and among the more endangered Democrats, on Saturday morning called on Biden to drop out of the race, saying "there is only a small window left to make sure we have a candidate best equipped to make the case and win."

"Given what I saw and heard from the President during last week's debate in Atlanta, coupled with the lack of a forceful response from the President himself following that debate, I do not believe that the President

SEE CANDIDACY ON A9

**The Sunday Take:** Biden responds with defiance. Critics see denial. A2

**@PKCapitol:** Biden's base has been the Senate. It's eerily quiet. A4

**'Coverup':** Trump allies aim to tie Harris to Biden's baggage. A4

## President felt that he had a handle on the fallout, at first

The inside story of days of damage control as the debate crisis snowballed

BY MICHAEL SCHERER, TYLER PAGER AND JOSH DAWSEY

President Biden's top aides awoke after debate night with a plan to contain the damage: a raucous North Carolina crowd, a message of resilience, a demonstration of vibrancy.

For the first time, Biden would admit what the world had watched for years. "I don't walk as easy as I used to. I don't speak as smoothly as I used to," he rehearsed at the Westin Raleigh-Durham Airport with Mike Donilon, his message guru. "But I know what I do know. ... I know how to do this job."

It was a comeback tale, based on the notion of a single bad night. "When you get knocked down, you get back up!" Biden declared, nailing the lines off a teleprompter, at full volume, to cheers. His next campaign ad was set.

But the crisis that may yet topple his candidacy would only get worse.

The speech showcased the promised candidate, but also reinforced the inconsistency. Donors, strategists, elected leaders and even some of his own advisers privately said they no longer

SEE BIDEN ON A5



## TRAVEL

"The Bear" crawl is a Chicago food tour inspired by the FX show.

## ARTS & STYLE

Mary Todd Lincoln is Broadway's biggest (and drunkest) new star.



## BUSINESS

TikTok lifted a family out of public housing. What if it gets banned?

## BOOK WORLD

Despite so many "final words," fraudster Bernie Madoff remains cryptic.

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SUNDAY COUPON INSERTS

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