

Fla. judge defuses a looming standoff

Rejects Trump’s bid to dismiss case on premise prosecutor called ‘flawed’

BY **DEVLIN BARRETT**
AND **PERRY STEIN**

U.S. District Judge Aileen M. Cannon on Thursday rejected Donald Trump’s bid to have his charges of mishandling classified documents dismissed on the grounds that a federal records law protected him from prosecution.

The judge also defended her handling of the issue, which had surprised legal experts and rankled prosecutors.

Trump’s defense team argued that the Presidential Records Act (PRA) took priority over the Espionage Act when it came to highly classified documents that went to his private residence in Florida after his presidency. On Thursday, Cannon shot down that argument, saying the PRA “does not provide a pre-trial basis to dismiss” either the mishandling charges or the related obstruction charges against Trump.

By defusing a looming confrontation with prosecutors, Cannon’s ruling may clear a path for her to decide a host of other unresolved pretrial issues, including the most basic question of when the trial will be held. The dispute over the possible relevance of the PRA to this case had led some legal experts to worry that there was little chance the case would go to trial this year.

Cannon’s decision comes three weeks after she held a hearing on Trump’s PRA motion, and two days after special counsel Jack

SEE **TRUMP** ON **A4**

A ‘trend’ of skirting security at airports

Hundreds of lapses, TSA says, revealing a vulnerability in air travel

BY **NATALIE B. COMPTON**

Hundreds of people have bypassed some Transportation Security Administration measures at airports in the past 12 months, the agency told The Washington Post, revealing a vulnerability in air travel that has been reflected in a series of incidents.

In November, for instance, two women were arrested at Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport for breaching a secured exit when they were running late to their flight. Then there was a ticketed traveler at Palm Springs International Airport who walked through an unstaffed body scanner on Feb. 22, leading authorities to evacuate post-security areas as a precaution.

Also in February, a woman at the Nashville International Airport bypassed TSA officers who check IDs and sneaked into the bag-screening line. After her belongings passed through the X-ray, she boarded an American Airlines flight without a ticket. She flew to Los Angeles International, where she was detained by the

SEE **AIRPORT SECURITY** ON **A16**



ILLUSTRATION BY MICHAEL DOMINE/THE WASHINGTON POST; GETTY IMAGES

Firm’s NIL deals spark legal debate

By the spring of 2022, the football future of Gervon Dexter was coming into focus. A hulking defensive lineman, he had started every game for the University of Florida the previous season, racking up 51 tackles in college football’s toughest conference.

Off the field, though, Dexter, then 20, was spiraling. After securing his scholarship, he had taken out high-interest loans to finance two aging cars, a Dodge Charger and Mercedes-Benz, that he couldn’t afford. He sued the dealership but failed to pay the filing fee, and the court threatened to send him to collections. He was evicted from his apartment for not paying the rent. He was about to become a father any day. His own dad had recently died.

And then the Facebook message landed.

“We have a 6 figure financial/NIL

Big League Advantage targeted MLB prospects for future earnings. Next up: College athletes.

BY **GUS GARCIA-ROBERTS**
AND **ALBERT SAMAHA**

opportunity for you,” the messenger wrote, identifying himself as a former college quarterback and representative of a “data & analytics firm” called Big League Advantage. “Would love to discuss more if you’re interested.”

It was a fortuitous if fraught time for college athletes. The U.S. Supreme Court had ruled a year earlier that athletes could no longer be deprived earnings from their personal brands, enshrining their so-called “name, image and likeness” (NIL) rights. Lawmakers, universities and the NCAA were scrambling to codify NIL policies as hefty checks began rolling in. Suddenly permitted to earn money for their stature, college athletes started showing up on television commercials, at trading card shows and at whatever marketing events sponsors

SEE **BIG LEAGUE** ON **A10**

Big Food and dietitians push ‘anti-diet’ advice

As obesity rises, influencers promote junk foods and discourage weight loss efforts

BY **SASHA CHAVKIN,**
CAITLIN GILBERT,
ANJALI TSUI
AND **ANAHAD O’CONNOR**

Jaye Rochon struggled to lose weight for years. But she felt as if a burden had lifted when she discovered YouTube influencers advocating “health at every size” — urging her to stop dieting and start listening to her “mental hunger.”

She stopped avoiding favorite foods such as cupcakes and Nutella. “They made me feel like I was safe eating whatever the hell I wanted,” said Rochon, 51, a video editor in Wausau, Wis. In two months, she regained 50 pounds. As her weight neared 300 pounds, she began to worry about her health.

The videos that Rochon encountered are part of the “anti-diet” movement, a social media juggernaut that began as an effort to combat weight stigma and an unhealthy obsession with thinness. But now global food marketers are seeking to cash in on the trend.

One company in particular, General Mills, maker of Cocoa Puffs and Lucky Charms cereals, has launched a multipronged campaign that capitalizes on the teachings of the anti-diet movement, an investigation by The Washington Post and The Examination



CAROLINE YANG FOR THE WASHINGTON POST AND THE EXAMINATION

After Jaye Rochon, 51, took the advice of anti-diet influencers, she gained weight and began to worry about her health.

nation, a nonprofit newsroom that covers global public health, has found.

General Mills has toured the country touting anti-diet research it claims proves the harms of “food shaming.” It has showered giveaways on registered dietitians who promote its cereals online with the hashtag #Derail-TheShame, and sponsored influencers who promote its sugary snacks. The company has also enlisted a team of lobbyists and pushed back against federal policies that would add health information to food labels.

General Mills complies with federal regulations and “works closely with a variety of scientific, health, nutrition and other credentialed experts to ensure we provide accurate, evidence-based information,” said spokesperson Andrea Williamson.

Online dietitians — many of them backed by food makers — also are building lucrative followings by co-opting anti-diet messages. Anti-diet hashtags, such as #NoBadFoods, #FoodFreedom and #DitchTheDiet, have proliferated on social media.

The Post and The Examination analyzed more than 6,000 social media posts by 68 registered dietitians with at least 10,000 followers. The analysis showed that roughly 40 percent of these influ-

SEE **DIET CULTURE** ON **A6**

Biden issues warning to Israel

U.S. COULD REASSESS ITS POLICY ON GAZA

Humanitarian situation is ‘unacceptable,’ he says

BY **YASMEEN ABUTALEB**
AND **MATT VISER**

President Biden told Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Thursday that the United States would reassess its policy toward the war in Gaza if the Jewish state does not take immediate steps to address the disastrous humanitarian situation in the enclave and protect aid workers.

“In the coming hours and days, we will be looking for concrete, tangible steps that they’re taking,” said White House spokesman John Kirby.

The phone call between the two leaders came three days after seven workers from the José Andrés-run World Central Kitchen were killed by an Israeli strike on a clearly marked convoy, igniting outrage in the United States and abroad. The president held the call with Netanyahu specifically because of the deadly strike, Kirby said, adding that Biden was “shaken” by the attack.

In Thursday’s call, Biden “made clear the need for Israel to announce and implement a series of specific, concrete, and measurable steps to address civilian

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Iran’s response: Israel is bracing after its deadly strike in Syria. **A12**

Arms deal greenlit on day convoy was struck

Flow of U.S. weapons to Israel set to continue after high-profile killings

BY **JOHN HUDSON**

The Biden administration approved the transfer of thousands more bombs to Israel on the same day Israeli airstrikes in Gaza killed seven aid workers for the charity group World Central Kitchen, three U.S. officials told The Washington Post this week after the incident elicited global condemnation.

The transaction demonstrates the administration’s determination to continue its flow of lethal weaponry to Israel despite Monday’s high-profile killings and growing calls for the United States to condition such support on greater protection for civilians in the war zone. A U.S. citizen was among the dead.

The move also casts new light on the emotional statement by President Biden that he was “outraged and heartbroken” by the tragedy and was insistent that such events never happen again.

“They were providing food to hungry civilians in the middle of a war,” Biden said. “They were

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IN THE NEWS

Hurricane forecast Some researchers are predicting an “extremely active” Atlantic season with potentially violent storms. **A3**

An unusual response A U.S. district judge plans to send a statement about a Jan. 6 rioter’s sentencing to 20 people who wrote letters supporting the defendant. **B1**

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The town of Federalburg, Md., apologized for its history of racism and agreed to other amendments to settle a voting rights lawsuit. **B1**

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The Washington Post
Year 147, No. 53812

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