



# Purdue Pharma deal is blocked

High court rejects plan to shield Sackler family, provide opioid crisis aid

BY DAVID OVALLE AND JUSTIN JOUVENAL

A divided Supreme Court on Thursday blocked a controversial proposed Purdue Pharma bankruptcy plan that would have provided billions of dollars to help address the nation's opioid crisis in exchange for protecting the family that owns the company from future lawsuits.

The justices ruled that U.S. bankruptcy code does not allow a court to shield the Sackler family, which owns the company and had agreed to pay up to \$6 billion over 18 years as part of the plan, from future opioid lawsuits. Family members did not file for bankruptcy themselves.

The ruling means states and other parties suing Purdue will restart negotiations, the latest chapter in the national reckoning over the role of drugmakers and other companies in igniting the epidemic of addiction and overdoses. The ruling could also affect major settlements in other cases approved through bankruptcy courts.

In a 5-4 decision that scrambled ideological lines on the Supreme Court, the majority found the plan was invalid because all the affected parties had not been consulted on the deal.

Justice Neil M. Gorsuch, writing for the majority, concluded that the bankruptcy code does not allow parties who did not file for bankruptcy to be shielded from lawsuits by claimants who did not consent.

"No one has directed us to a statute or case suggesting American courts in the past enjoyed the power in bankruptcy to discharge [such] claims ... all

SEE PURDUE ON A10

**Legal proceedings:** High court limits use of SEC tribunals. **A11**

# Idaho abortion ruling leaves patients and doctors in limbo

Emergency care allowed in state, but justices sidestep national issue

BY CAROLINE KITCHENER AND DAN DIAMOND

One month after Kelsie Norris-De La Cruz was turned away from a Texas hospital with a life-threatening pregnancy complication, the 25-year-old college senior learned about a federal law that could have protected her during the most frightening medical episode of her life.

Just knowing about the Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act, known as EMTALA, made her feel she had some degree of power, Norris-De La Cruz said: The federal government required doctors and hospitals to provide abortions in emergency situations like hers — even in states where abortion is illegal. If she had another high-risk pregnancy, she hoped she could invoke the federal law to demand treatment.

"EMTALA, EMTALA, EMTALA," she had imagined saying to the doctor who refused in February to terminate her ectopic pregnancy, a highly dangerous condition in which the fetus implants outside the uterus. "If you don't help me, I could report you."

Norris-De La Cruz was crushed to learn Thursday that the Supreme Court, while allowing emergency abortions to resume in Idaho for now, had not ruled to broadly affirm EMTALA protections for abortion care, leaving patients who face pregnancy complications in limbo, unsure what kind of care to expect at hospitals in states with strict anti-abortion laws.

If the justices had protected emergency abortions outright, she said, "I would have felt like I had a tool ... power over my own body and my own life."

"I'm on birth control right now and still terrified."

The Supreme Court ruling provides temporary relief for doctors in Idaho, the state at the center of the legal challenge. But justices chose not to answer the larger question of whether the four-

SEE ABORTION ON A11

**THE NATION**  
**Judge Cannon** will hold a hearing for Donald Trump to challenge the Mar-a-Lago search. **A2**  
**House Republicans'** appropriations proposals could trigger a broader spending battle. **A3**

**THE WORLD**  
**China**, after a successful moon mission, says the U.S. can't impede its "giant steps" in space. **A12**  
**Denmark** is set to impose the world's first carbon tax on cows, pigs and sheep. **A13**

**THE ECONOMY**  
**Walgreens** said it will close a large number of its U.S. locations in the next three years as profits continue to fall. **A15**  
**Boeing** was scolded by the National Transportation Safety Board for sharing details of an inquiry into a midair door panel blowout. **A16**

**THE REGION**  
**A Virginia rally** today is set to mark the first time that Gov. Glenn Youngkin and Donald Trump appear in public together. **B1**  
**Metro** will implement its first major fare hike in seven years, with prices rising 12.5 percent for rail and bus trips. **B1**

**STYLE**  
**The Daily Beast** news website initiated layoffs and buyouts as its new leaders try to "reposition and reset." **C1**

**WEEKEND**  
**This Fourth of July**, celebrate your independence with an itinerary designed to give you your ideal holiday.

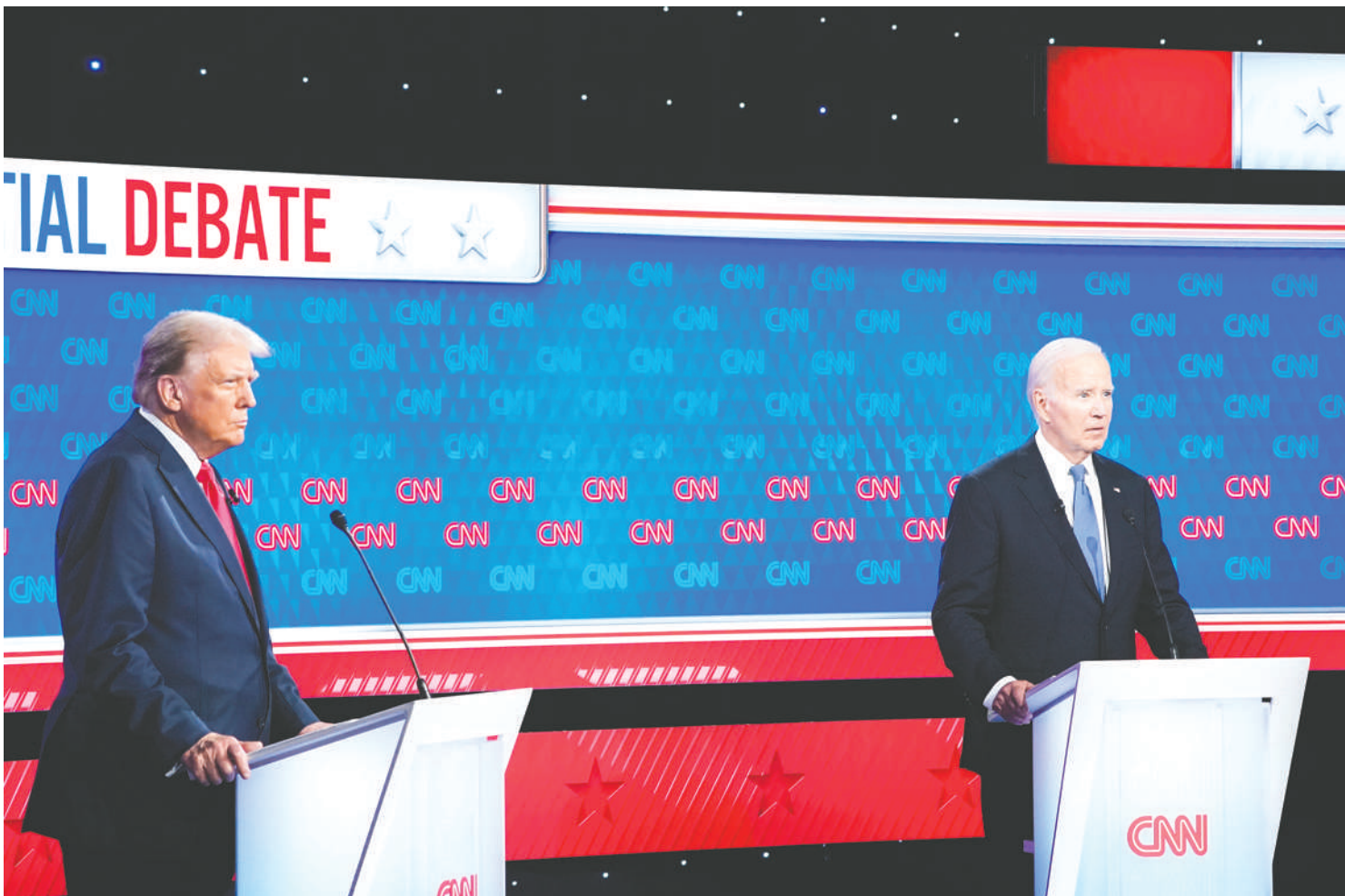
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ELECTION 2024

# Biden struggles in testy debate



JABIN BOTSFORD/THE WASHINGTON POST

Former president Donald Trump and President Biden debate Thursday night in Atlanta, the first presidential debate of the 2024 elections. Democrats expressed concern that Biden did little to put to rest voter perceptions that his age is a major issue in the race.

ANALYSIS

## President's stumbles, Trump's falsehoods could bolster critics of each

BY MATT VISER AND MARIANNE LEVINE

President Biden from the start of Thursday's debate spoke with a voice that was thin and raspy — at times, even when delivering lines meant to be forceful, speaking barely above a whisper — and about 10 minutes into the debate he appeared to lose his focus, unable to complete a train of thought.

"I really don't know what he said at the end of that sentence," presumptive Republican nominee Donald Trump inter-

jected at one point. "I don't think he knows what he said, either."

The two presidents, one current in a blue tie and one former in a red one, stood at podiums placed just eight feet from each other. Their disdain for each other was clear from the start when they did not shake hands, did not make eye contact during a commercial break and exchanged no moments of levity.

The debate included a felon (Trump) and the oldest pairing in history, with an 81-year-old Biden facing a 78-year-old

Trump. In many ways it was, in the bluntest terms, a debate in which Biden was attempting to seem less old and Trump trying to appear less unmoored.

But arguably neither were entirely successful during the course of 90 minutes, and both seemed to play into the stereotypes that existed before the debate.

Biden in particular seemed to struggle, especially early on. His mouth was often agape as he stood listening to Trump speak, and some of his answers appeared to meander off-topic. He took a question about abor-

tion, one of his strengths, and began talking about immigration, one of his weaknesses.

Biden began answering another question by talking about the national debt, then turned to the tax system, eventually vowed to strengthen health care — and then apparently was uncertain where to go next.

"Making sure that we're able to make every single solitary person eligible for what I've been able to do with the, with the covid," he said. "Excuse me, dealing with everything we have to do with ... Look ... if ..."

SEE ANALYSIS ON A9

**Takeaways from the first debate:** What we learned about the candidates in their prime-time face-off. **A8**

## PERFORMANCE STIRS WORRY IN HIS PARTY

Trump's untruths go unchallenged as barbs fly

BY TOLUSE OLORUNNIPA, MICHAEL SCHERER AND ISAAC ARNSDORF

ATLANTA — President Biden struggled through a raspy voice and uneven delivery Thursday to unleash a charged and deeply personal attack on his longtime rival, former president Donald Trump, who responded in kind with a blizzard of personal jibes and falsehoods at the first presidential debate of the cycle.

Biden noticeably stumbled at times as he delivered his retorts with a thin voice, mumbled words and occasional look of confusion — a performance that drew immediate worries among Democrats concerned about his age and perceived fragility among many voters.

Trump, who attempted to deliver a less voluble and defiant performance than past debates, based many of his answers around falsehoods that went unchallenged by the debate moderators.

In the sharpest exchanges of the night, Biden accused Trump of having "the morals of an alley cat" for allegedly having "sex with a porn star," a reference to allegations Trump still denies that were a part of his recent criminal trial in New York.

Biden called Trump a "convicted felon" and "such a whiner" and also denounced Trump for his refusal to condemn those who committed violence in the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol.

"The idea that you have the right to seek retribution against any American is just wrong. No president has ever spoken like that before," he said, before predicting that Trump is unlikely to accept the results of the coming election if he loses.

Trump, in turn, called Biden's actions "absolutely criminal," and falsely alleged that Biden "gets paid by China" and is a "Manchurian candidate," asserting

SEE DEBATE ON A8

# Trying to make it to the Olympics? Go train with Biles.

Built and run by the icon's parents, World Champions Centre in Texas produces top gymnasts

BY EMILY GIAMBALVO



DAVID J. PHILLIP/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gymnast Jordan Chiles laughs during a training session at World Champions Centre in Texas. The U.S. Olympian moved from the Pacific Northwest to work with Simone Biles, hoping to spark her career.

In the loneliest tier of this individual sport, the gymnasts from World Champions Centre gravitate toward one another upon arriving at competitions. They pose for photos, record dances for TikTok and wear T-shirts celebrating their "girl gang." Originally from different parts of the country and separated by more than a decade in age, they soon will navigate the pressure-packed Olympic trials together — all because their dreams led them to the Houston suburbs, where they train alongside Simone Biles.

As Biles became the world's best gymnast, her parents built one of the country's best clubs. The somewhat impulsive idea stemmed from their daughter's need for a place to train, but the gym since has grown to become the nation's largest hub of top-level gymnasts.

Five of the 15 women to compete at this week's Olympic trials

SEE GYMNASTICS ON A6

**Complex and secretive:** How U.S. Olympic gymnasts are selected. **D1**

## IN THE NEWS

**Assange prosecution** This week's plea deal involving the WikiLeaks founder came after the case's near-collapse in a British court. **A16**

**Religious mandate** All public schools in Oklahoma must teach the Bible in grades five through 12, the state's superintendent said, though specifics were unclear. **A4**