



Partly sunny 92/73 • Tomorrow: Mostly sunny 94/69 B6

Democracy Dies in Darkness

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ELECTION 2024

In six key 2024 states, meet the ‘Deciders’

Poll examines voters yielding enormous influence in election

BY SCOTT CLEMENT, EMILY GUSKIN AND DAN BALZ

RiKi Denning is, by her own account, “torn up” about the November election. She is almost certain she will cast a ballot but just might leave the presidential line blank. “I just hate both of the candidates and there’s no third-party candidate that stands a chance,” the 26-year-old resident of Las Vegas said.

Forced to choose between President Biden and former president Donald Trump, she said she would lean toward Biden, then added, “But I just don’t agree with him as president at all.” Her dissatisfaction with Biden includes her belief that he is too old for another term, that he hasn’t delivered on a promise to eliminate her student loan debt and that he supports Israel in the war in Gaza.

Tamara Etter, 48, lives in Cobb County in suburban Atlanta. She supported Biden in 2020 when she was living in Missouri. She is now a registered voter in Georgia but is looking beyond the two major party candidates. This year she has been attracted to the candidacy of Robert F. Kennedy Jr.

“If Kennedy is on the ballot, 100 percent I’ll vote for him,” she said. “Biden has lost my favor. The

SEE POLL ON A18

A diploma in hand, but no foot in the door

College graduates step off the stage and into a slow employment market

BY ABHA BHATTARAI

Millions of new college graduates are entering the workforce just as entry-level job prospects are fizzling.

Despite the strong labor market, it’s becoming tougher for newcomers to break in. Hiring is slowing, especially for recent graduates, with coveted white-collar employers pulling back on new postings. Just 13 percent of entry-level job seekers found work in the past six months, down from a 2022 peak of 20 percent, according to a Goldman Sachs analysis of Commerce Department data.

“The class of 2024 may need to buckle in for a bit of a rough ride this summer,” said Becky Frankie-wicz, North America president at staffing firm ManpowerGroup. “People aren’t leaving their jobs, employers aren’t laying off. Everyone is staying put — and that’s bad news if you’re trying to get a foot in the door.”

Although the odds of finding a job have improved from pre-pandemic levels for many workers, that’s not the case for new

SEE JOBS ON A15

Asylum seekers from Mauritania are settling in a city that is drawing relatively little attention as arrivals have soared



MADDIE MCGARVEY FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

A home in Ohio for African immigrants with nowhere to go

BY TIM CRAIG IN CINCINNATI

Oumar Ball was in a rush. The eight men crammed into his 2006 Honda Odyssey needed to clock into work at a chicken-processing plant by 4 p.m. It was 3:40 p.m. and the traffic on the Ronald Reagan Highway wasn’t moving fast enough.

As Ball wove through the cars, he toggled from one call or WhatsApp message to the next. One man needed help making a down payment to a lawyer to begin his asylum paperwork. Another wanted to know how many more days before he’d get permission from the U.S. government to work.

Ever since thousands of his compatriots began arriving from Mauritania to the United States border with Mexico two years ago, they’ve been making their way to the quiet Cincinnati neighborhood of Mount Airy, where they have found refuge in Ball’s home.

Up until recently, few Maurita-

Oumar Ball shares lunch with some of the 15 Mauritanian migrants living in his home in Cincinnati in March. “These people, they don’t have nowhere to go, so you have two choices: You kick them out, and they are going to be on the street, or you help people and trust that God will help you,” Ball said.

nians made the 10,000-mile trek from Africa to South America and then on to the United States. But poverty, corruption and racial tensions between the Arab-dominated government and Black Africans have compelled many to flee and apply for asylum in America, where most are allowed to remain while waiting for their cases to be heard.

Last year, at least 15,500 residents from Mauritania arrived in the United States, according to U.S. Customs and Border Protection data analyzed by The Washington Post. The influx represents a 2,800 percent increase compared with 2022, when just 543 arrived.

The sharp increase in migrants is part of a broader pattern of immigration that led President Biden to issue an executive order earlier this month blocking new asylum seekers once unauthorized border crossings exceed 2,500 a day.

SEE MIGRANTS ON A6

A prayer amid the ruins



OMAR AL-QATTAA/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Palestinians perform the Eid al-Adha morning prayer Sunday, the first day of the Muslim holiday marking the end of the Hajj pilgrimage to Mecca, in the courtyard of Gaza City’s heavily damaged Omari Mosque. **Story, A11**

Future Post editor tied to self-described ‘thief’

Man wrote in book drafts that he used subterfuge to assist in reporting

BY ISAAC STANLEY-BECKER, SARAH ELLISON, GREG MILLER AND AARON C. DAVIS

LONDON — The alleged offense was trying to steal a soon-to-be-released copy of former prime minister Tony Blair’s memoir.

The suspect arrested by London police in 2010 was John Ford, a once-aspiring actor who has since admitted to an extensive career using deception and illegal means to obtain confidential information for Britain’s Sunday Times newspaper. Facing potential prosecution, Ford called a journalist he said he had collaborated with repeatedly — and trusted to come to his rescue.

That journalist, according to draft book chapters Ford later wrote recounting his ordeal, was Robert Winnett, a Sunday Times

veteran who is set to become editor of The Telegraph, did not later this year.

Winnett moved quickly to connect Ford with a lawyer, discussed obtaining an untraceable phone for future communications and reassured Ford that the “remarkable omerta” of British journalism would ensure his clandestine efforts would never come to light, according to draft chapters Ford wrote in 2017 and 2018 that were shared with The Post.

Winnett, currently a deputy editor of the Telegraph, did not respond to a detailed list of questions. Ford, who previously declined to be interviewed, did not respond to questions about the draft book chapters.

Winnett is poised to take over the top editorial position in The Post’s core newsroom, scheduled to start after the November U.S. presidential election. He was appointed by Post CEO and Publisher William Lewis, who has mentored Winnett and worked with him at two British papers. Lewis is also mentioned in Ford’s draft

SEE WAPO ON A8

IN THE NEWS

Biden and Obama The two issued grave warnings about Donald Trump at a star-studded fundraiser in Los Angeles. **A3**

Backlash to war Iraqi militias have targeted U.S. and American-style food chains as part of an economic boycott of brands they say help fund the Israeli military’s actions in Gaza. **A10**

THE NATION Democrats are divided on what to do about a string of Supreme Court controversies. **A3**
An exceptional heat wave is about to build over swaths of the United States. **A4**

THE WORLD Those who know India’s Narendra Modi say he is unlikely to change his approach after an election setback. **A12**
China is reportedly pursuing an expansion of its nuclear arsenal. **A13**

THE ECONOMY At Apple’s showcase last week, one speaker after another adopted a conspicuous posture: the “ready position.” **A14**

THE REGION A Salvadoran fugitive faces charges in the killing and rape of a Maryland woman last year, authorities said. **B1**

Traffic cameras have led to sharp declines in speeding on the D.C. streets where they are installed, data shows. **B1**
Alexandria’s mayoral race has become a referendum on candidates’ style of engagement in a community that has weathered debates on zoning and an arena. **B1**

STYLE An excerpt from “Apprentice in Wonderland” finds Trump revisiting his reality-TV glory days during a low moment for the former president in 2021. **C1**
A long-simmering “Bridgerton” romance has set social media aflame this season. **C1**

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