

T-storm 64/58 • Tomorrow: Shower 73/58 B6

Democracy Dies in Darkness

SATURDAY, MAY 18, 2024 • \$3

As crime drops in D.C., fears over it rise

Poll shows an increase in city residents who are worried about safety

BY EMILY DAVIES
AND SCOTT CLEMENT

D.C. residents are more worried about public safety now than they were a year ago despite a significant drop in violent crime in early 2024 and a raft of popular local legislation aimed at curtailing some of the city's more liberal public safety policies, according to a Washington Post-Schar School poll.

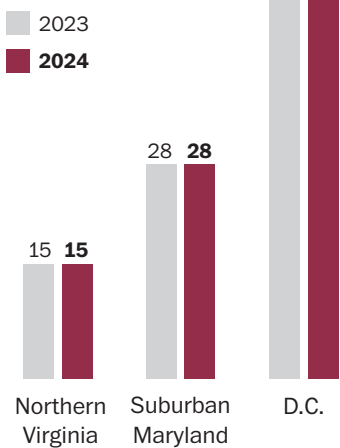
Sixty-five percent of Washingtonians say crime is an "extremely serious" or a "very serious" problem in the District, up from 56 percent in a 2023 Washington Post-Schar School poll. While 70 percent of D.C. residents feel at least "somewhat" safe from crime in their neighborhoods, that is down from 77 percent last year. That includes 23 percent who feel "very safe," down slightly from 29 percent last year.

The drop in the perception of safety in the nation's capital is stark compared with attitudes in D.C.'s suburbs, where residents' levels of concern are largely unchanged from last year. Fewer than 3 in 10 residents in suburban Maryland and 15 percent of those in Northern Virginia say crime is an extremely serious or a very serious problem in their areas, almost identical to a poll last spring.

In Maryland, 44 percent of residents reported feeling "very safe" in their neighborhoods; SEE CRIME ON A14

Metro riders: In a poll, they praise the service but are crime-wary. B1

Share of residents in each area saying that crime is extremely or very serious in each place



Source: Washington Post-Schar School poll



A natural gas field belonging to state-owned energy company Petronas as seen from Bintulu, Malaysia, on March 6.

TROUBLE IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA

Malaysia's offshore obstacle

In the open sea off the coast of Malaysian Borneo, industrial rigs extract massive amounts of oil and gas that fuel the economy of Malaysia.

Slightly beyond that, in waters Malaysia also considers its own, Chinese coast guard vessels and maritime militia boats maintain a near-constant presence, say Malaysian officials. For 10 years, their country has done little to

Venturing farther out to drill oil and gas crucial to its economy risks a confrontation with Chinese forces

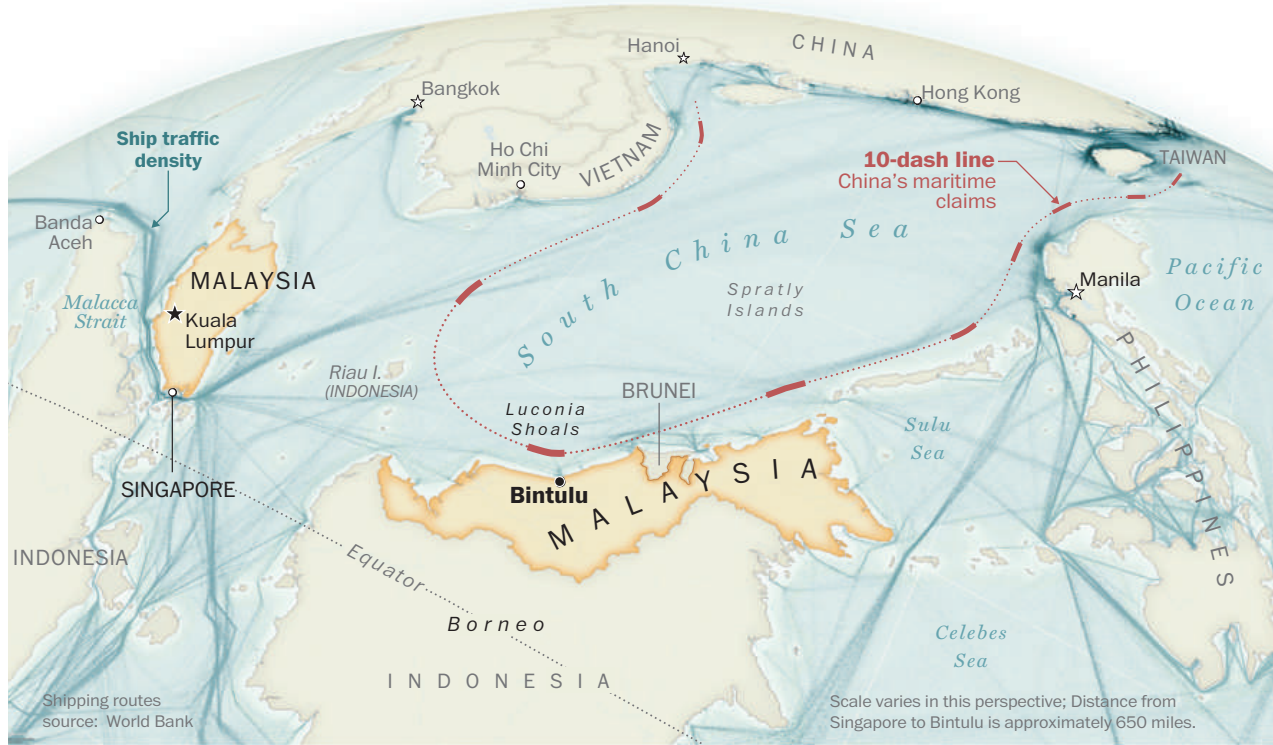
BY REBECCA TAN
IN BINTULU, MALAYSIA

contest them.

But Malaysia is running out of oil and gas close to shore. Increasingly, it has to venture farther out to sea, raising the likelihood of direct confrontation with Chinese forces in the South China Sea.

As tensions rise throughout the South China Sea, one of the world's busiest and most contested-

SEE MALAYSIA ON A10



LARIS KARKLIS/THE WASHINGTON POST

70 years later, assessing Brown's complicated legacy

The landmark schools ruling is revered, but 1 in 3 Black Americans say integration hasn't helped

BY LAURA MECKLER,
EMILY GUSKIN
AND SCOTT CLEMENT

Seventy years after the Supreme Court delivered its landmark decision outlawing school segregation, *Brown v. Board of Education* ranks as perhaps the court's most venerated decision. A Washington Post-Ipsos survey shows it is overwhelmingly popular.

That's the simple part. Most everything else related to the decision — and to school segregation itself — is complex.

Nearly 7 in 10 Americans say more should be done to integrate

schools across the nation — a figure that has steadily climbed from 30 percent in 1973 and is now at its apex. But a deeper look into the views of Black and White people shows skepticism about the success of *Brown* and mixed messages about how to move forward.

In its unanimous decision in *Brown*, the Supreme Court ruled segregated schools were unconstitutional and "inherently unequal," combining five cases in which Black students and their schools had far fewer resources than their White peers — longer commutes, lower-quality classes, overcrowd-

SEE INTEGRATION ON A6



LOGAN CYRUS FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Isaac Heard, who went to segregated schools in Charlotte, worries the impact of *Brown v. Board of Education* is "slowly receding."

Business titans pressed NYC mayor on protests, chats show

Group that formed after Oct. 7 attacks also sought to shape opinion on Gaza

BY HANNAH NATANSON
AND EMMANUEL FELTON

A group of billionaires and business titans working to shape U.S. public opinion of the war in Gaza privately pressed New York City's mayor last month to send police to disperse pro-Palestinian protests at Columbia University, according to communications obtained by The Washington Post

and people familiar with the group.

Business executives including Kind snack company founder Daniel Lubetzky, hedge fund manager Daniel Loeb, billionaire Len Blavatnik and real estate investor Joseph Sitt held a Zoom video call April 26 with Mayor Eric Adams (D), about a week after the mayor first sent New York police to Columbia's campus, a log of chat messages shows. During the call, some attendees discussed making political donations to Adams, as well as how the chat group's members could pressure Columbia's president and trustees to permit the mayor to

SEE GROUP CHAT ON A4

IN THE NEWS

A sign of distress The flying in 2021 of an upside-down flag outside Supreme Court Justice Samuel A. Alito Jr.'s home spurred calls for his recusal in Jan. 6 cases. A7

Debate over Morehouse's identity President Biden's upcoming commencement address sparks mixed emotions among students. A5

THE NATION Census data showed cities saw continued growth after pandemic population loss. A2
Power may take weeks to restore after a storm with 100-mph winds clobbered Houston. A3

THE WORLD Trucks began delivering aid from a temporary U.S.-made pier in the Gaza Strip. A9
The Vatican released new guidelines on classification of supernatural events. A11

THE ECONOMY The Dow Jones Industrial Average closed above 40,000 for the first time, reflecting confidence in the fight against inflation. A13
Autoworkers at a Mercedes plant in Alabama voted against joining the UAW, a setback for its Southern push. A14

THE REGION Larry Hogan called his recent pivot on abortion rights a refinement of his beliefs as he runs for a U.S. Senate seat. B1
The chancellor of D.C. Public Schools slammed a proposal that would move money from the central office budget to individual schools. B1

STYLE Renowned photographer Platon shared his memories of capturing intimate moments of celebrities. C1

SPORTS Scottie Scheffler, the No. 1 golfer in the world, was arrested before the second round of the PGA Championship. D1

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