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Democracy Dies in Darkness

TUESDAY, JULY 30, 2024 · \$3

Maduro's victory claim met by protest

Venezuelan opposition claims it has evidence of electoral fraud

BY SAMANTHA SCHMIDT. ANA VANESSA HERRERO, LEO SANDS AND MARINA DIAS

CARACAS, VENEZUELA - The United States and several Latin American countries cast doubt Monday on President Nicolás Maduro's reelection on Sunday, ordinary Venezuelans took to the streets and opposition leaders prepared to reveal what some said was evidence of brazen electoral

Venezuela's National Electoral Council, which Maduro controls, claimed early Monday that the authoritarian socialist earned 51 percent of the vote to Edmundo González's 44 percent.

On Monday evening, opposition leaders said they had collected more than 73 percent of voting center records, and they proved that González won twice as many votes as Maduro. That was similar to independent exit polling released Sunday evening.

"We have in our hands the tallies that show our triumph, which is categorically and mathematically irreversible," González told reporters. "Our triumph is histor-

Earlier Monday, council President Elvis Amoroso declared Maduro president for another sixyear term — suggesting that a recount would not change the outcome announced earlier in the

Opposition leaders, who had seen the election as its best chance in more than a decade of defeating Maduro, demanded he hand over SEE VENEZUELA ON A13



How Musk turned into energetic Trump fan

BY JOSH DAWSEY, Eva Dou AND FAIZ SIDDIQUI

Elon Musk began privately gathering support for Donald Trump's second presidency long before he tweeted his public endorsement on July 13.

At least five months earlier, Musk made a pitch for Trump at the Palm Beach, Fla., oceanfront mansion of Wendy's co-founder Nelson Peltz, where some of the billionaires and top political strategists who had gathered to discuss 2024 campaign strategy were surprised to see him.

The Feb. 16 event included a number of Trump skeptics: Karl Rove, a former adviser to George W. Bush and a current adviser to hotelier Steve Wynn, argued that the assembled crew should give money to down-ballot candidates and state parties. Another donor urged the crowd to keep helping GOP contender Nikki Haley, according to attendees who spoke on the condition of anonymity to

Surreal summer: Race's twists take voters on "roller coaster." A7



PHOTOS BY LI OIANG FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

At border, Chinese influx poses test

Uptick in migrants partly driven by economic, political pressures in their homeland

BY CATE CADELL, NICK MIROFF AND LI QIANG

LOS ANGELES — Lei Muhan and her parents crossed 11 nations along the journey from China to the United States, riding on the backs of motorcycles, paying off smugglers and trekking through a scorching desert.

The small California bedroom that now houses the family seemed a little dull by comparison. Muhan, 10, passed the time flipping through a spiral notebook, eager to start school. "I Am Happy," she had written over and over in English.

Her father, Lei Xiaoyue, made rice for breakfast. If Muhan could enroll in school that morning, he could look for work.

The family arrived in the United States in April, joining the largest wave of illegal border crossings by Chinese migrants in history — part of a wider influx that is also bringing record numbers of migrants from South America, India, Turkey and an array of African nations. Many are guided by SEE MIGRANTS ON A10



ABOVE: A group of Chinese migrants who crossed the border from Mexico exchange information as they step off a bus in San Diego. TOP: Lei Muhan, 10, peers out of a bus window in Los Angeles.

Experts: Health staff failed Otieno as he suffocated

BY SAMUEL OAKFORD

Virginia authorities moved quickly to investigate after Irvo Otieno, a 28-year-old Black man, was suffocated on the floor of a state psychiatric hospital in March 2023. By the following week, seven officers and three hospital orderlies who piled on him had been charged with

second-degree murder, and that same month, Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin (R) promised an "aggressive transformation" of the behavioral health-care system

that experts say failed Otieno. But a year later, the criminal case has fractured, and little public scrutiny has been given to the actions of the clinical staff, including doctors and nurses, at Virginia's Central State Hospital in Dinwiddie County, where Otieno died. No clinical staff members at the psychiatric facility have been charged; the orderlies were "special management technicians," a position that focuses on security and requires no medical training beyond knowledge of CPR, according to a job listing. Meanwhile, an investigation into

potential abuse and neglect related to Otieno's care is on hold pending the results of the criminal case, which now involves just two officers and an orderly facing downgraded charges of involun-

tary manslaughter. A new analysis by The Washington Post of nearly two hours of surveillance footage inside and SEE OTIENO ON A16

Biden backs court reform

TERM LIMITS, ETHICS **CODE PROPOSED**

President calls recent rulings 'dangerous'

BY MATT VISER, TYLER PAGER AND ANN E. MARIMOW

AUSTIN - President Biden on Monday came to the LBJ Presidential Library to deliver a sweeping indictment of the U.S. Supreme Court, calling its rulings "dangerous," its ethics code "weak" and its practices in desperate need of reform.

Biden, a former chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee who oversaw numerous confirmation battles, said the court has become unmoored from its traditional role. "We live in a different era," he said during a 25-minute address in an auditorium filled with hundreds of people. "In recent years, extreme opinions the Supreme Court has handed down have undermined longestablished civil rights principles and protections."

He proposed several sweeping changes to the Supreme Court, including 18-year term limits for the justices and a binding, enforceable ethics code.

"On top of its extreme decisions, the court is mired in a crisis of ethics," Biden said. "These scandals involving the justices have caused public opinion to question the court's fairness and independence that are essential to faithfully carrying out its mission. The Supreme Court's current ethics code is weak and, even more frightening, voluntary."

It was an extraordinary critique of the nation's top judicial body, especially given Biden's long-standing faith in American institutions. Conservatives argue that proposals like Biden's stem from a dislike of the court's recent rulings, not a genuine desire for reform. Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump posted Monday on Truth Social: "We have to fight for our Fair and Independent Courts, SEE BIDEN ON A4

Opinion: President Biden's plan to reform the Supreme Court. A19

A moment cast in bronze

From left, Brody Malone, Asher Hong, Frederick Richard, Paul Juda and Stephen Nedoroscik took the bronze in Paris for the first medal for the U.S. men's gymnastics team since 2008. Story, D1

WILLIAM L. CALLEY JR. 1943-2024

Army officer became face of My Lai Massacre

EMILY LANGER, **BRIAN MURPHY** AND ADAM BERNSTEIN

BY HARRISON SMITH,

William L. Calley Jr., a junior Army officer who became the only person convicted in connection with the My Lai Massacre of 1968, when U.S. slaughtered soldiers hundreds of unarmed South Vietnamese men, women and children in one of the darkest chapters in American mili-

tary history, died April 28 at a hospice center in Gainesville, Fla. He was 80.

The Washington Post obtained a copy of his death certificate from

the Florida Department of Health in Alachua County. His son, Laws Calley, did not immediately respond to requests for additional information. Other efforts to reach Mr. Calley's family were unsuccessful.

The Post was alerted to the death, which was not previously reported, by Zachary Woodward, a recent Harvard Law School graduate who said he noticed Mr. Calley's death while looking through public records.

Although he was once the country's most notorious Army officer, a symbol of military misconduct in a war that many considered immoral and unwinnable, SEE CALLEY ON A2

BUSINESS NEWS

OBITUARIES

TELEVISION

IN THE NEWS

Flames, then floods Following two fires, a city in central New Mexico has been repeatedly inundated, destroying homes and devastating residents. A3

SEE MUSK ON A6

Police leadership As Chief Pamela A. Smith's tenure in D.C. hit the one-year mark, leaders and residents reflected on her record. B1

THE NATION

The FBI offered new details about the gunman's "careful planning" for the Trump attack. A4 A new study found almost half the counties in the United States lack a cardiologist. A5

THE WORLD

Civilians braced as Israel weighed a response to an attack launched from Lebanon. A9 Two children were killed and others were wounded in a mass stabbing in England. A14

THE ECONOMY

The Biden administration has declined to appeal rulings upending two affirmative action programs. A15

OBITUARIES Alma Powell, 86, was dedicated to serving military families as the wife of a former

secretary of state. B1

THE REGION D.C. has added more than 36,000 housing

units ahead of schedule in its bid to ease spiraling rents, Mayor Muriel E. Bowser said. B1 A construction firm

will pay \$3.75 million in the largest workers' rights settlement in the history of the District. B1

STYLE The family of Alsu

Kurmasheva, a journalist imprisoned in Russia, pleaded with officials in Washington for help in securing her release. C1

HEALTH & SCIENCE

rare fatal reaction. E1

A common antibiotic used for acne and other conditions can cause a

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