

## Police end protest at Columbia University

Over 100 people arrested after refusing to vacate pro-Palestinian camp

BY JONATHAN EDWARDS, SUSAN SVRLUGA AND DAN ROSENZWEIG-ZIFF

More than 100 people protesting the war in Gaza were cleared from Columbia University's campus, arrested and charged with trespassing on Thursday, a day after the university's president testified before Congress as part of an investigation into antisemitism at colleges.

Having been summoned by Columbia President Minouche Shafik in what she described as "an extraordinary step" to keep the campus safe, New York Police Department officers in riot gear entered the encampment with zip ties in the early afternoon and systematically arrested protesters, who offered little resistance.

Tejasri Vijayakumar, Columbia College student body president, started sobbing, completely shocked, when she heard NYPD had moved in. Columbia's gates have been closed all week, so only people with a university identification can get in; it was a peaceful student protest, she said. "Why not let Public Safety handle it?" she asked, or continue negotiating.

"People are furious," she said. Many people were frightened, as well, she said, but the fear didn't make the crowds dwindle. The administration's move has only fueled the fire, she said.

Students who participated in the encampment would be suspended, Shafik said in a letter to New York police.

The encampment's removal came a day after Shafik and other Columbia leaders faced scrutiny from federal lawmakers about antisemitism on their campus, and as universities across the country

SEE COLUMBIA ON A7

**U.N. veto:** United States blocks a resolution on a Palestinian state. **A7**

**Hezbollah:** Iran's attack could roil Israel's northern border. **A9**

Drought grips the Horn of Africa — as does a new venture



## As cows die, Kenya looks to the camel

BY CHICO HARLAN AND RAELE OMBUOR  
PHOTOS BY MALIN FEZEHAJ  
IN NTEPES, KENYA

**ABOVE:** Camels, climate-resilient animals whose milk is comparable to cow's milk, are distributed to new owners in Kenya's Samburu County, about 240 miles north of Nairobi.



The camels had thump-thumped for seven days across northern Kenya, ushered by police reservists, winding at last toward their destination: less a village than a dusty clearing in the scrub, a place where something big was happening. People had walked for miles to be there. Soon the governor pulled up in his SUV. Women danced, and an emcee raised his hands to the sky. When the crowd gathered around an enclosure holding the camels, one man said he was looking at "the future."

The camels had arrived to replace the cows. Cows, here and across much of Africa, have been the most important animal for eons — the foundation of economies, diets, traditions.

But now grazable land is shrinking. Water sources are drying up. A three-year drought in the Horn of Africa that ended last year killed 80 percent of the cows in this part of Kenya and shattered the livelihoods of so many people.

In this region with the thinnest of margins, millions are being forced to adapt to climate change — including those who were now drawing numbers from a hat, each corresponding to one of the 77 camels that had just arrived in Samburu County.

"Your number?" a village chief, James Lelemusi, asked the first person to draw.

The regional government had purchased the camels from traders near the border with Somalia, at \$600 per head. So far 4,000 camels, as part of that program, have been distributed across the lowlands of the county, speeding up a shift that had already been happening for decades

SEE CAMELS ON A10

## Trump trial jolts its way to 12 jurors

PAIR'S REMOVAL SET BACK PROCEEDINGS

Judge expects opening statements Monday

BY SHAYNA JACOBS, DEVLIN BARRETT, RACHEL WEINER AND ISAAC ARNSDORF

NEW YORK — A 12-member jury was assembled for Donald Trump's hush money trial on Thursday hours after two previously sworn-in jurors were removed, illustrating the intense scrutiny and potential public exposure that comes with sitting in judgment of the former president and likely 2024 Republican White House nominee.

Seven men and five women have been picked, along with the first of what is expected to be a group of six alternates. Jury selection will resume Friday. While it is possible that additional sworn-in jurors will also drop out or be removed, requiring more to be screened and chosen, New York Supreme Court Justice Juan Merchan said he expected opening statements on Monday.

Some of the selected jurors said during questioning that they have personal views of Trump or his presidency but could remain impartial in the case. One spoke favorably of him, saying she liked that he "speaks his mind." Another told the court, "I don't like his persona."

Overall, the jurors showed a range of knowledge about his court cases, with several saying they didn't follow the news closely.

Trump is the first former U.S. president to stand criminal trial. He faces 34 counts of falsifying business records in connection with reimbursement of a hush money payment to adult-film actress Stormy Daniels during the 2016 election. Prosecutors have accused Trump of classifying the

SEE TRUMP ON A6

**Never say never?:** They slammed Trump but will still vote for him. **C1**

### THE TAKEOVER

## A narco revolt pushes once peaceful Ecuador to brink

Gangs seize a TV station on air, unleash chaos in the streets and trigger a declaration of war

BY SAMANTHA SCHMIDT AND ARTURO TORRES  
IN GUAYAQUIL, ECUADOR

The investigation was called "Metastasis," a sweeping probe into links between parts of Ecuador's political and legal establishment and the country's ruthless drug gangs. On Dec. 14, Ecuador's attorney general announced the arrests of 30 people, including senior judges, prosecutors, police officials, prison officers and prominent defense lawyers. All of them, she said, were part of an organized criminal scheme to benefit one of the country's top drug traffickers.

"Fellow citizens, the Metastasis case is a clear X-ray of how drug trafficking has taken over the institutions of the state," Diana Salazar Méndez, the country's top law enforcement official, said in a video address from her fortress headquarters.

She warned that it was only a matter of time before the gangs struck back.

SEE ECUADOR ON A12



YURI CORTEZ/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

**A soldier keeps watch during a Jan. 12 operation in Guayaquil, Ecuador's largest city. President Daniel Noboa, in office about a month, answered the Jan. 9 revolt with military action, including in prisons.**

## New rule brings seismic shift to federal land management

Conservation now on equal footing with mining and drilling

BY MAXINE JOSELOW

For decades, the federal government has prioritized oil and gas drilling, hardrock mining and livestock grazing on public lands across the country. That could soon change under a far-reaching Interior Department rule that puts conservation, recreation and renewable energy development on equal footing with resource extraction.

The final rule released Thursday represents a seismic shift in the management of roughly 245 million acres of public property — about one-tenth of the nation's land mass. It is expected to draw praise from conservationists and legal challenges from fossil fuel industry groups and Republican officials, some of whom have lambasted the move as a "land grab."

Interior's Bureau of Land Management, known as the nation's largest landlord, has long offered leases to oil and gas companies, mining firms and ranchers. Now, for the first time, the nearly 80-year-old agency will auction off "restoration leases" and "mitigation leases" to entities with plans to restore or conserve public lands.

"Today's final rule helps restore balance to our public lands as we continue using the best-available science to restore habitats, guide strategic and responsible development, and sustain our public lands for generations to come," Interior Secretary Deb Haaland said in a statement.

Under President Biden, the BLM has put a greater emphasis on protecting public lands from the twin threats of climate change and development. Tracy Stone-Manning, the bureau's director, has warned that hotter, drier climates are driving longer and more intense wildfires and drought across the American West. At the same time, development has fragmented and de-

SEE PUBLIC LANDS ON A16

### IN THE NEWS

**Aid for Ukraine** House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-La.) must depend on Democratic votes to ensure his legislative plan is successful, which is likely to result in a Republican-led attempt to oust him from his leadership position. **A5**

**Wave from the Pacific** Japanese players are shaping MLB — and the game back home. **D1**

**THE NATION Documents** add to a candidate's account of an alleged gun mishap he now says is a lie. **A3**  
**Amid a surge** in syphilis, obstetricians are calling for more testing during pregnancy. **A4**

**THE WORLD Drones** are crowding Ukraine's skies and impeding battlefield advances by both sides. **A8**  
**The United States** imposed sanctions on Iran's drone production and steel industry. **A9**

**THE ECONOMY Tesla** asked shareholders to ratify a pay package for CEO Elon Musk, despite the deal being voided in January. **A15**  
**Meta** announced that its AI chatbot will be integrated into its social media apps, raising concerns about misinformation. **A16**

**THE REGION A Maryland teen** was arrested and charged after an investigation found he threatened to shoot up Wootton High School. **B1**  
**In a new ad**, Maryland Republican Larry Hogan said he's running for the Senate "to be a voice of common sense." **B1**

**OBITUARIES Sheppie Abramowitz**, 88, worked tirelessly on behalf of displaced people around the world. **B1**

**WEEKEND What to expect** this season at Nationals Park, including new food offerings and stadium upgrades.

BUSINESS NEWS.....A15  
COMICS.....C5  
OBITUARIES.....B4  
OPINION PAGES.....A17  
TELEVISION.....C4  
WORLD NEWS.....A8

CONTENT © 2024  
The Washington Post  
Year 147, No. 53826

