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Democracy Dies in Darkness

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Police evade bans on facial recognition

Officers in San Francisco, Austin asked neighboring agencies to run searches

BY DOUGLAS MACMILLAN

As cities and states push to restrict the use of facial recognition technologies, some police departments have quietly found a way to keep using the controversial tools: asking for help from other law enforcement agencies that still have access.

Officers in Austin and San Francisco — two of the largest cities where police are banned from using the technology — have repeatedly asked police in neighboring towns to run photos of criminal suspects through their facial recognition programs, according to a Washington Post review of police documents.

In San Francisco, the work-around didn't appear to help. Since the city's ban took effect in 2019, the San Francisco Police Department has asked outside agencies to conduct at least five facial recognition searches, but no matches were returned, according to a summary of those incidents submitted by the department to the county's board of supervisors last year.

SFPD spokesman Evan Sernoffsky said these requests violated the city ordinance and were not authorized by the department, but the agency faced no consequences from the city. He declined to say whether any officers were disciplined because those would be personnel matters.

Austin police officers have re-SEE FACE RECOGNITION ON A14

ELECTION 2024

Aging brains can be fit for presidency, experts say

BY JOEL ACHENBACH AND MARK JOHNSON

The 2024 presidential election has turned into a crash course in gerontology.

On Election Day, former president Donald Trump will be 78 years old, and President Biden will be a couple of weeks shy of 82. Never have two people of such advanced age been the nominees of the major political parties, nor has there been a campaign so rife with suspicions and allegations that candidates are showing signs of age-related cognitive decline.

The situation has worried the electorate. In a Marquette Law School poll conducted in March, 77 percent of registered voters said they consider Biden “too old to be president,” while 52 percent said that of Trump. And in a Pew Research survey in April, 62 percent said Biden did not have the “mental fitness needed to do the job,” while 48 percent reached that conclusion about Trump.

But this public discussion of the aging brain — a scientific topic if ever there was one — has been conducted largely without reference to any scientific facts.

Research on aging, cognition and dementia has become more robust in a time when about 56 million Americans are over age SEE COGNITION ON A11

Vocal support: Gov. Burgum backs Trump as allies discuss VP picks. A4

Israeli corridor in Gaza reveals clues about postwar plans

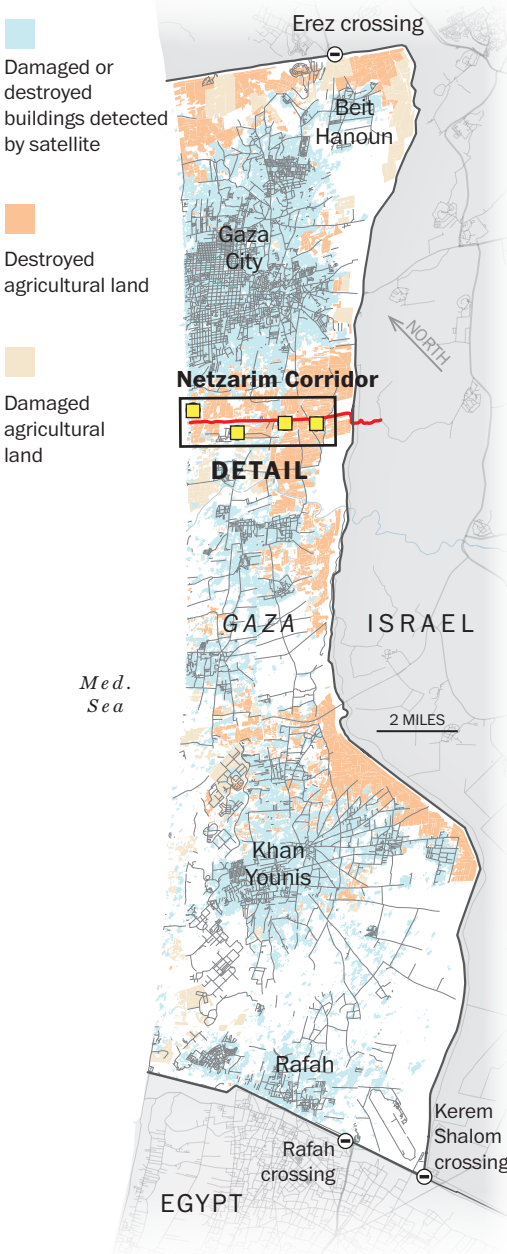
BY LOVEDAY MORRIS, EVAN HILL, SAMUEL GRANADOS AND HAZEM BALOUSHA

Israeli troops are fortifying a strategic corridor that carves Gaza in two, building bases, taking over civilian structures and razing homes, according to satellite imagery and other visual evidence — an effort that military analysts and Israeli experts say is part of a large-scale project to reshape the Strip and entrench the Israeli military presence there.

The Netzarim Corridor is a four-mile-long road just south of Gaza City that runs from east to west, stretching from the Israeli border to the Mediterranean Sea. Hamas has made Israel's withdrawal from the area a central demand in cease-fire negotiations.

But even as talks have continued over the past two months, Israeli forces have been digging in. Three forward operating bases have been established in the corridor since March, satellite imagery examined by The Washington Post shows, providing clues about Israel's plans. At the sea, the road meets a new, seven-acre unloading point for a floating pier, an American project to bring more aid into Gaza.

Israel insists it does not intend to permanently reoccupy Gaza, which its troops controlled for 38 years until withdrawing in 2005. But the SEE GAZA ON A18



SOURCE: SATELLITE IMAGE AS CAPTURED ON APRIL 16, PLANET LABS. BUILDING ANALYSIS OF COPERNICUS SENTINEL-1 SATELLITE DATA THROUGH MAY 8 BY COREY SCHER OF CUNY GRADUATE CENTER AND JAMON VAN DEN HOEK OF OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY. MICROSOFT MAPS. AGRICULTURE ANALYSIS BY ADI BEN-NUN OF HEBREW UNIVERSITY.

In bright-red Va. district, heated primary reveals GOP cracks

BY LAURA VOZZELLA

MINERAL, Va. — Republican John J. McGuire III took his upstart bid for Congress to a spring carnival here that mixed small-town charm with MAGA fervor, where children who mustered a bell-ringing whack in the strongman game went home with toy assault weapons.

Buttonholing voters on the midway in this red central Vir-

ginia town one recent Friday night, the Virginia state senator made a pro-Trump, anti-establishment pitch fit for an ordinary GOP primary fight, the kind with a moderate incumbent challenged from the right. But the Republican whom McGuire wants to oust in the June 18 primary is Rep. Bob Good, chairman of the hard-right House Freedom Caucus.

One of Washington's most un-

yielding Christian conservatives, Good unseated a fellow Republican four years ago who officiated a same-sex wedding. He helped topple one Republican House speaker for working with Democrats and has threatened to do the same to a second. More than most members of Congress, Good digs in on ultraconservative principles even if that pushes high-stakes negotiations beyond the brink.

“God forbid we shut down the very government that's destroying the country,” Good wryly told about 50 supporters over lunch in Farmville last month.

Good wound up in McGuire's crosshairs for backing Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis for the White House a year ago over former president Donald Trump, now the party's presumptive nominee. McGuire, an unswerving SEE PRIMARY ON A12

Buying slows as gloom spreads

RISING PRICES ARE BUSTING BUDGETS

U.S.'s souring mood may cast pall over fall election

BY ABHA BHATTARAI

After a spurt of optimism, Americans are feeling a little more glum about the economy — again.

Consumer sentiment, a gauge of Americans' economic perceptions, is at a six-month low, according to a closely watched index by the University of Michigan. The measure notched its biggest drop since 2021, reflecting the persistent tug of inflation on household budgets and fueling fears that rising prices, unemployment and interest rates could all worsen in the coming months.

That pessimism is altering consumers' spending habits. McDonald's, Home Depot, Under Armour and Starbucks all recently reported disappointing earnings, as people cut back on fast food, kitchen renovations, sneakers and afternoon lattes. Retail sales were flat in April after decent pickups in February and March. Meanwhile, Walmart reported a strong first quarter this past week, nudged upward by high-income shoppers, executives said.

And gas prices, while easing in recent weeks, are up overall for the year, just ahead of the busy summer season.

“For the last couple of years, the economy has been driven by SEE ECONOMY ON A5

Zelensky's chief aide flexes power, nettles critics

BY SIOBHÁN O'GRADY, DAVID L. STERN AND ISABELLE KHURSHUDYAN

KYIV — If actor and comedian Volodymyr Zelensky's top credential when he was elected in 2019 was that he'd played a president on TV, the top qualification of his all-powerful chief of staff, Andriy Yermak, was being Zelensky's friend.

The head of the office of the president, as Yermak's post is formally known, has always wielded enormous influence in Ukraine. Wartime conditions, including martial law, have concentrated extraordinary authority in the presidential administration, making Yermak perhaps the most powerful chief of staff in the country's history — virtually indistinguishable from his boss.

SEE UKRAINE ON A6



OKSANA PARAFENIUK FOR THE WASHINGTON POST
Andriy Yermak, the Ukrainian president's chief of staff.

Grid on the brink: Ukraine already fears winter amid dire damage. A16

METRO

Youngkin continued his veto spree, shattering the previous record.

ARTS & STYLE

How do you mend a broken Heart? Ann and Nancy Wilson know.



BUSINESS

Can you spot bad financial advice on TikTok? Take our quiz.

BOOK WORLD

“Challenger” is a fresh telling of one of NASA's darkest moments.



SPRING DINING GUIDE

Tom Sietsema's top picks for delightful dining in and around D.C.

TRAVEL

The elite (and pampered) pups of the Westminster dog show travel in style.

\$290

SUNDAY COUPON INSERTS

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