


The Washington Post

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Ga. case co-opted by allies of Trump

Election-security case argues state voting machines are vulnerable

BY EMMA BROWN AND AMY GARDNER

Mike Lindell, the flamboyant pillow magnate, has spent millions promoting the falsehood that the 2020 election was stolen from Donald Trump — a claim that has been roundly rejected by cybersecurity experts, government officials and numerous courts. But late last year, Lindell crowed that a federal judge had vindicated him at last.

“I get to take off my tinfoil hat!” he said on a podcast hosted by former Trump White House adviser Stephen K. Bannon, removing a baseball cap covered in aluminum foil that he had worn as a prop. “You know, that’s what that judge said, we’re not a conspiracy theory guy anymore! Praise the Lord.”

The judge had said no such thing. She had not mentioned Lindell at all — or the outlandish election-fraud claims he and other Trump allies have advanced.

The people U.S. District Court Judge Amy Totenberg declared to be not “conspiracy theorists of any variety” are the largely left-leaning plaintiffs in a lawsuit that was filed in Georgia long before the 2020 election and that is slated to go to trial this week. They argue that voting machines there present security risks that state officials are constitutionally obligated to address — and they have the backing, Totenberg wrote, of “some of the nation’s leading cybersecurity experts.”

SEE VOTING ON A5

ELECTION 2024

Haley hopes for repeat of her 2010 comeback

BY ASHLEY PARKER AND DYLAN WELLS

COLUMBIA, S.C. — Former congressman J. Gresham Barrett (R-S.C.) still remembers what he calls the “seismic” quake that upended the 2010 South Carolina Republican primary for governor.

His campaign had just gotten polling results that second Wednesday in May, which showed him leading a trio of rivals — two other White Republicans and a little-known Indian American state lawmaker named Nikki Haley, who had been rising in the polls but was still mired in single digits.

Then, that Friday, former vice-presidential candidate Sarah Palin came to town, holding a raucous rally for Haley on the steps of the South Carolina State House in downtown Columbia.

“We felt a tectonic shift, honestly, to the point where we actually went back into the field the next week, because it was that earth-shattering,” Barrett said.

SEE HALEY ON A6



JAH CHIKWENDU/THE WASHINGTON POST

‘It could happen to anybody’

Colon cancer is rising in young Americans. It’s not clear why.

BY JOEL ACHENBACH AND LAURIE MCGINLEY
IN LOUISVILLE

The five people gathered around the restaurant table do not fit the profile of colon cancer patients. They’re female, and they’re young. Two were diagnosed in their 20s, one in her 30s, two in their early 40s.

Their colon cancer support group gathers about once a month to share stories, such as the one about the doctor who said you just need a laxative, the one about the oncologist who said there’s nothing we can do for you but give you chemotherapy the rest of your life, the one about friends saying, “You don’t look sick,” without realizing that isn’t helpful.

“It’s making *themselves* feel better,” said Carly Brown, 29, a schoolteacher diagnosed with Stage 4 colon cancer about five years ago.

These women know all too painfully well that something strange is happening in the United States in the long war on cancer. Although progress has been substantial in lowering the overall death rate from cancer, deaths due to some types of cancer have increased among people younger than 50.

Emily Domhoff, who was diagnosed in her late 20s with colon cancer, sits in June with a saline drip IV.

Colorectal cancer is one of the drivers of this trend. In the past three decades, incidence of the disease has risen significantly among people younger than 50, many of whom have no obvious risk factors, such as having a genetic predisposition. No one knows why.

American life expectancy trails that of similarly developed nations, and the gap is widening. The dismaying reality is that multiple factors are taking the lives of people who have not yet reached a ripe old age. Colorectal cancer is a tiny element in that complex story, but the recent rise in the disease among seemingly healthy young people is a reminder that the health landscape is constantly evolving in ways not readily understood by medical science.

A report released last year by the American Cancer Society found that people younger than 55 went from accounting for 11 percent of all colorectal cancer in 1995 to 20 percent in 2019. About 3,750 people younger than 50 would die

SEE CANCER ON A14

Alaska’s changing climate puts homeless in peril

Even the state’s hardest souls are being tested by wetter winters with little precedent

BY JOSHUA PARTLOW

ANCHORAGE — Near the end of the snowiest year on record for Alaska’s largest city, Larry Tunley took a plastic box tied to an old boogie board and pulled the makeshift sled through the trees to collect wood.

Tunley lives under a tarp in a homeless camp on the north side of the city, one of hundreds of people who spend the winter outdoors in Anchorage. The season’s snowstorms had made his tenuous living situation even more perilous: tents gave way under the heavy drifts; tree limbs crashed down. During a cold snap in November, at least four people in the city died from exposure or through their attempts to stay warm, according to police and advocates for the homeless. Tunley’s neighbors huddled together around propane flames or shared body heat to withstand the elements.

“We all pull together, like America’s supposed to,” he said in the snow-draped woods as he

SEE ALASKA ON A4



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Larry Tunley, 49, and his dog Kea stand for a portrait before going to chop wood in the forest on Nov. 28. Tunley, who is homeless, is one of hundreds of people who spend the winter outdoors in Anchorage.

U.S. fears war’s spread

BIDEN, AIDES WARN AGAINST ESCALATION

Concern that Israel seeks to widen war to Lebanon

BY JOHN HUDSON, YASMEEN ABUTALEB AND SHANE HARRIS

ISTANBUL — President Biden has dispatched his top aides to the Middle East with a critical objective: Prevent a full-blown war from erupting between Israel and the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah.

Israel has made clear its views as untenable the regular exchange of fire between its forces and Hezbollah along the border and may soon launch a major military operation in Lebanon.

“We prefer the path of an agreed-upon diplomatic settlement,” Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant said Friday, “but we are getting close to the point where the hourglass will turn over.”

U.S. officials are concerned that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu may see an expanded fight in Lebanon as key to his political survival amid domestic criticism of his government’s failure to prevent Hamas’s Oct. 7 attack, which killed an estimated 1,200 people and resulted in some 240 hostages being held.

SEE LEBANON ON A10

Airstrike toll: Al Jazeera says Israel killed more journalists. A10

Budget deal would avoid government shutdown

BY JACOB BOGAGE

Congressional leaders reached a \$1.66 trillion agreement Sunday to finance the federal government in 2024, preserving funding for key domestic and social safety net programs despite GOP demands to cut the budget.

Now lawmakers are up against a stiff deadline to pass legislation to codify the deal and avert a partial government shutdown in less than two weeks. Funding runs out for roughly 20 percent of the government — including for essential programs such as some veterans assistance, and food and drug safety services — on Jan. 19, and money for the rest of the government runs out shortly after that, on Feb. 2.

The agreement, announced jointly by Senate Majority Leader Charles E. Schumer (D-N.Y.) and House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-La.), will almost surely face vehement opposition from far-right House Republicans, who had hoped to force steep budget cuts.

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IN THE NEWS

The Golden Globes “Oppenheimer,” “Succession,” “The Bear” and “Beef” were the big winners in revamped awards show. C1

Defense secretary President Biden is likely to keep Lloyd Austin on as Pentagon chief, officials said, despite his failure to disclose a prolonged hospitalization. A3

THE NATION
Historians criticized Donald Trump’s remark that the U.S. Civil War “could have been negotiated.” A2
GOP presidential ads are getting more heated and more frequent. A3

THE WORLD
A wave of elections this year are putting global democracy on the ballot at a time when illiberal politicians are gaining ground in society after society, Ishaan Tharoor writes. A9

THE ECONOMY
A midair breach of the fuselage on an Alaska Airlines flight capped a stormy year for Boeing and its 737 Max jets. A5
AI gadgets are sure to be some of the year’s hottest tech, but you should take a cautious approach, Shira Ovide writes. A11

THE REGION
The Virginia General Assembly is gearing up for a session in which Democrats hold narrow majorities but the governor has the veto. B1
A woman is suing Virginia jail employees over her baby’s death, alleging they ignored her cries as she gave birth. B1

STYLE
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