



Partly sunny 80/67 • Tomorrow: Showers 76/56 **B6**

Democracy Dies in Darkness

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2024 • **\$3**

Biden's son submits guilty plea in tax case

Move sidesteps another criminal trial but comes with risk of prison time

BY JESSICA OGILVIE, MATT VISER AND PERRY STEIN

LOS ANGELES — President Joe Biden's son Hunter pleaded guilty to nine federal tax charges Thursday, a surprising turn that allows him to avoid a second criminal trial but still exposes him to significant prison time.

Sentencing is set for Dec. 16. The last-minute plea, on the day when jury selection was supposed to begin, means members of Biden's family will not have to testify about embarrassing and traumatic details in his life and theirs.

U.S. District Judge Mark Scarsi asked Hunter Biden in court if he understood a guilty plea would mean he could face up to 17 years in prison and fines of up to \$1.3 million, and would lose the right to run for public office in some states. Biden said he did. As each of the charges was read, he repeated that he was pleading guilty.

"I will not subject my family to more pain, more invasions of privacy and needless embarrassment," Hunter Biden said in a statement Thursday evening, saying that "prosecutors were focused not on justice but on dehumanizing me for my actions during my addiction."

While the president could pardon his son before leaving office in January, he and his aides have said repeatedly that he will not do so — a claim White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre repeated on Thursday.

SEE BIDEN ON A4

Ga. shooting suspect's father charged



ERIK S. LESSER/EPA-EFE/SHUTTERSTOCK

Student Jose Ortiz, 14, right, embraces chaplain Ronald Clark a day after four were killed at Apalachee High School in Winder, Ga.

HE LET SON HAVE A RIFLE, OFFICIALS SAY

Murder counts are most severe filed in such case

BY JOHN WOODROW COX, STEVEN RICH AND SARAH BLASKEY

Georgia officials charged the father of the suspected Apalachee High gunman with two counts of second-degree murder Thursday — the most severe ever filed against the parent of an alleged school shooter. The arrest came less than 36 hours after two students and a pair of teachers were gunned down with an AR-15-style rifle that, investigators allege, the man allowed his 14-year-old son to possess.

Along with murder, Colin Gray, 54, was charged with four counts of involuntary manslaughter and eight counts of cruelty to children. His son, Colt Gray, has been charged with four felony counts of murder.

The father "knowingly allowed him to possess the weapon. His charges are directly connected to the actions of his son," Chris SEE FATHER ON A9

Security alerts: Panic buttons helped save lives, officials say. **A10**

From coaching to church, victims left an enduring impact

BY TEO ARMUS, ANNIE GOWEN AND EMILY WAX-THIBODEAUX

WINDER, GA. — Sitting on the porch outside his squat, white-shingled house, Ismael Angulo didn't have the words.

He had not been able to sleep, he said, since police told him Wednesday that his son Christian had been shot and killed inside Apalachee High School, barely a

few weeks after starting his freshman year.

Christian, 14, was one of two students and two teachers killed during the shooting, according to law enforcement officials. The other student, Mason Schermerhorn, 14, was remembered by his sister as "very energetic and kind." Math teacher Cristina Irimie, 53, was patient and enthusiastic about her students. Richard SEE VICTIMS ON A10



Cristina Irimie



Christian Angulo



Mason Schermerhorn



Richard Aspinwall

Struggling teen begged for help with mental health, aunt says

BY SARAH BLASKEY AND HOLLY BAILEY

The 14-year-old arrested after a mass killing at Georgia's Apalachee High School had been "begging for months" for mental health help before he allegedly carried out a deadly attack Wednesday, according to an aunt of the shooting suspect.

He "was begging for help from everybody around him," Annie

Brown, the aunt, told The Washington Post. "The adults around him failed him."

Brown, who lives in Central Florida, declined to elaborate on the teen's mental health challenges but said she tried from afar to get him help. In text messages to a relative, she voiced concern last month that her nephew had access to a gun, according to screenshots she provided to The Post; SEE SUSPECT ON A8

Covid shot slipping out of reach for uninsured

BY FENIT NIRAPPIL

As updated coronavirus vaccines hit U.S. pharmacy shelves, adults without health insurance are discovering the shots are no longer free, instead costing up to \$200.

The federal Bridge Access Program covering the cost of coronavirus vaccines for uninsured and underinsured people ran out of funding. Now, Americans with low incomes are weighing whether they can afford to shore up immunity against an unpredictable virus that is no longer a public health emergency but continues to cause long-term complications and hospitalizations and kill tens of thousands of people a year.

The program's elimination marks the latest tear in a safety net that once ensured people could protect themselves against the coronavirus regardless of their financial situation. Health experts worry that the paltry 22 percent rate of adults paying up-to-date on vaccines will erode further. And they fear that the roughly 25 million people without health insurance in the nation will be especially vulnerable to covid because they tend to be in poorer health and avoid medical SEE COVID ON A17



ILLUSTRATION BY CHLOE CUSHMAN FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Two fired shots. One was arrested.

BY OLIVIA DIAZ AND MARINA DIAS

When Juliana Peres Magalhães dreamed of America, she envisioned a spacious home and a more comfortable life than the one she led in the countryside of São Paulo, according to family and friends.

She found all of that — and more — in a well-to-do suburb of the nation's capital, caring for the young daughter of Christine and Brendan Banfield as an au pair.

A wife and a man died, an au pair awaits trial, and a husband is home

The work, through a cultural exchange program, delivered on the promises that drew the 21-year-old from her native Brazil to a nearly million-dollar house in Virginia.

She made friends. She made money. She became part of a family.

Then came a gruesome and complicated double homicide, which authorities allege Magalhães helped orchestrate. Magalhães now sits in jail, awaiting a jury trial in November in a case that has become an internet sensation, prompting an episode on "Crime Stories With Nancy Grace," a social following on TikTok and fervid coverage in Brazilian media outlets.

The way prosecutors tell it, Magalhães appears to have been SEE AU PAIR ON A6

ELECTION 2024

Trump supports idea of Musk as efficiency czar

As alliance strengthens, Tesla CEO could take on spending cuts task force

BY MARIANNE LEVINE, JEFF STEIN AND TRISHA THADANI

NEW YORK — Former president Donald Trump on Thursday endorsed a government commission that could give Elon Musk broad responsibilities for auditing federal spending and regulations, tightening their pre-election alliance during a wide-ranging speech in which he also made some misleading or baseless claims on economic policy.

Trump's advisers have discussed the commission for months, and Musk has publicly expressed interest in it on X, the social media platform he owns. Trump, the Republican presidential nominee, formally expressed his support during a speech here.

"This commission will develop an action plan to totally eliminate fraud and improper payments within six months," Trump said, adding that the new commission would save "trillions of dollars." Budget experts have said it is possible a commission could identify tens of billions or possibly hundreds of billions of dollars

in government spending cuts but that it is not credible to imagine the commission cutting trillions of dollars without severely affecting federal services.

Trump said Musk has "agreed to head the task force" and credited him for the recommendation of the panel. Musk didn't respond to a request for comment.

The speech was a fresh indicator of the extent to which the two men have collaborated in the run-up to the November election. Musk, who is also a Tesla and Space X executive, endorsed the former president after he was slightly wounded in an attempted assassination in Butler, Pa., in July and has used his social media platform to try to help Trump in ways that have prompted concern from some critics.

Musk recently attacked Trump's rival, Vice President Kamala Harris, and posted a fake image depicting her as a communist, echoing Trump's disparaging nickname for her: "Comrade Kamala." He falsely claimed in a message accompanying the fabricated image, "Kamala vows to be a communist dictator on day one. Can you believe she wears that outfit?"

The image appeared to violate X's own policies on manipulated SEE TRUMP ON A5

D.C. hearing: Judge sets deadline in Trump's 2020 election case. **B1**

IN THE NEWS

A new prime minister French President Emmanuel Macron appointed Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier nearly two months after elections resulted in deadlock. **A14**

A new chapter Six years after a crackdown in China forced a beloved bookstore to close, it has reopened in D.C.'s Dupont Circle. **B1**

THE NATION **Crime is falling** in major U.S. cities as police increasingly focus on gun cases. **A2** **Native Americans** are facing delays in food deliveries after a change to a federal program. **A3**

THE WORLD **What to know** about the Philadelphia Corridor, a key obstacle in Gaza cease-fire talks. **A11** **Ugandan Olympian** Rebecca Cheptegei died after being set on fire by an ex-boyfriend. **A15**

THE ECONOMY **New Mexico** has sued the owner of Snapchat, alleging the platform is a "breeding ground" for the sexual extortion of children. **A16** **Amazon chatbot** Alexa preferred Harris over Trump because of AI software added last year, files showed. **A16**

THE REGION **A Maryland man** was arrested in connection with the death of a D.C. police officer shot by a gun discarded in a storm drain. **B1** **Federal prosecutors** charged five Russian military officers in a cyberattack on Ukrainian computer systems. **B1**

STYLE **Supreme Court** Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson's memoir includes intimate glimpses of her experience as a parent. **C1**

WEEKEND **With two months** to go to the election, even professional politicos need a break. Here are their top tips to ease the anxiety.

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