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Democracy Dies in Darkness

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Corporate lobbyists eyeing new lawsuits

Regulation opponents plan to use high court ruling to their advantage

BY TONY ROMM

Mere hours after the Supreme Court sharply curbed the power of federal agencies, conservatives and corporate lobbyists began planning how to harness the favorable ruling in a redoubled quest to whittle down climate, finance, health, labor and technology regulations in Washington.

The early strategizing underscored the magnitude of the justices' landmark decision, which rattled the nation's capital and now appears poised to touch off years of lawsuits that could redefine the U.S. government's role in modern American life.

The legal bombshell arrived Friday, when the six conservatives on the Supreme Court invalidated a decades-old legal precedent that federal judges should defer to regulatory agencies in cases where the law is ambiguous or Congress fails to specify its intentions. Writing for the majority, Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. described the framework as "unworkable," at one point arguing in his opinion that it "prevents judges from judging."

Many conservatives and businesses long had chafed over the legal doctrine, known as *Chevron* deference after a case involving the oil giant in the 1980s. They had encouraged the Supreme Court over the past year to dismantle the precedent in a flood of legal filings, then rejoiced when the na-

SEE REGULATIONS ON A4

In Egypt, evacuees from Gaza find sanctuary but live in the shadows



LORENZO TUGNOLI FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

BY CLAIRE PARKER, LORENZO TUGNOLI AND HAZEM BALOUSHA IN CAIRO

A 42-year-old and four of her six daughters in their apartment near Cairo. "People here are so kind to us," said one of the girls, but it's a "new life — it's hard."

'Everything is closing in'

When Israel launched its war against Hamas, Cairo was adamant: It would not accept Palestinian refugees. Yet more than 115,000 Gazans have crossed into Egypt since October, the Palestinian Authority's embassy here estimates. ¶ Most remain in limbo, with no legal status and nowhere else to go. They are members of a new diaspora of Palestinians, a people already haunted by memories of displacement. ¶ While several thousand sick and wounded have been treated in Egyptian hospitals, the vast majority of evacuees came with the help of foreign embassies or via Hala Consulting and Tourism — an Egyptian company reportedly linked to state security services that charges a hefty "coordination" fee to help Palestinians escape. ¶ Once in Egypt, nonmedical evacuees have largely been left to fend for themselves. Tens of thousands have illegally overstayed their 45-day tourist visas, making them ineligible for public education, health care and other services.

SEE REFUGEES ON A12

ELECTION 2024

Biden's choice to run stirs scrutiny

NEW, FATEFUL LIGHT AFTER DEBATE

2022 decision now hangs over political landscape

BY TOLUSE OLORUNNIPA AND MATT VISER

President Biden's decision to pursue a second term crystallized during the 2022 Thanksgiving holiday, as he gathered on Nantucket island with his large family to discuss his political future.

At the time, the choice in some ways seemed straightforward: Better-than-expected results in the midterm elections had buoyed the incumbent and silenced many of his doubters, he had successfully enacted an ambitious legislative agenda and he felt strong and healthy days after celebrating his 80th birthday.

Now, after a debate performance where his stumbles and meandering responses sent shock waves through the Democratic Party, Biden's enormously consequential decision to run as an 81-year-old after initially saying he would be a transitional figure has come under harsher scrutiny, raising fresh questions about his

SEE BIDEN ON A6

The Sunday Take: Democrats are divided over what to do next. **A2**

Atlanta debate: Trump repeatedly dodged questions he didn't like. **A7**

A French city shows far right's risk, appeal

In Toulon, the faction was kicked out of power when it held local control

BY RICK NOACK

TOULON, FRANCE — If you want to understand the far right's appeal in France, or perhaps what could happen if the National Rally party gets a chance to govern, this southern port city is the place to go.

Even in the years when the far right was considered toxic in much of the country, Toulon was partial to politicians who took a hard-line stance on immigration and crime. In 1995, it became the first large city in Western Europe since World War II to give control of the local government to a far-right party. Three decades later, in elections that begin Sunday, Toulon may send a far-right candidate to the National Assembly in Paris, potentially helping National Rally get its first chance to form a national government.

And yet, people in Toulon will readily tell you, the period of far-right rule here did not go well. After six years of culture wars and economic stagnation, voters

SEE FRANCE ON A11

Snap elections: Voters in France are heading to the polls today. **A10**



MICHELLE GUSTAFSON FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

As isolation and pessimism mount, teacher tries to get teens to the polls

Classroom project runs up against students' fading belief in democracy

BY GREG JAFFE IN ALLENTOWN, PA

Shannon Salter checked the results of an online poll that she gave each year to her high school civics students. One of the questions asked whether they would support lowering the voting age to 16.

"Everyone said no," Salter told her students in late April. "That has never happened before. So, I am dying to dig into why."

Salter, a 53-year-old White woman, stood at the front of the classroom. Her students, Black and Hispanic teenagers drawn from Allentown's working-class neighborhoods, were arrayed around her. All were seniors. Most were weighing whether they will become first-time voters in the fall when the presidential election could come down to their

state, Pennsylvania.

One student complained that social media had polluted his peers' minds with misinformation and fried their attention spans. "A 16-year-old nowadays — that's not old enough," he said. "There's no maturity or knowledge there."

Another, who had spent much

SEE ALLENTOWN ON A14

Civics teacher Shannon Salter has had a difficult time convincing her students that they can shape their community by voting. "I'm pushing against more pessimism than I ever have before," she said.

Affable friend is a killer with a secret, police say

His arrest in a 2001 Md. slaying has forced friends to reckon with the man they thought they knew

BY EMILY DAVIES AND DAN MORSE

The affluent area just outside D.C. was still dumbfounded by the brutal killing of a 50-year-old woman when Eugene Gligor got the question.

"Who do you think did it?"

At the time, it seemed like gossip from a friend's mother who figured he must care, since he'd dated the victim's daughter for about five years. Police had yet to make an arrest in the attack inside the family's Chevy Chase, Md., home.

Gligor made eye contact with the woman, recalled a friend who witnessed the exchange. Then he replied. Steady and even-keeled, with an answer he would maintain for 23 years.

"Your guess is as good as mine."

Now, that conversation is one of dozens that have haunted his friends and co-workers since June 18, when police arrested Gligor, 44, on a charge of first-degree murder in the killing of his ex-girlfriend's mother. After decades without answers, authorities said he was the one who, on May 2, 2001, strangled Leslie J. Preer and battered her head on the foyer floor.

"It was almost impossible to believe — like, Eugene?" said Jordan Weiers, Gligor's mentee at a real estate company, where Weiers worked from 2018 to 2021. "I couldn't imagine him



FAMILY PHOTO

Leslie J. Preer around 1977. She was killed in her home in 2001.

hurting a fly."

Police say that new analysis recently brought them closer to Gligor and that this month they matched his DNA to evidence from the crime scene. His brother and mother declined to comment, as did his attorney, Isabelle Raquin, citing a policy at her firm not to comment on active cases. He's being held in the Montgomery County jail ahead of a hearing next month.

Interviews with eight people who knew Gligor offer a stark contrast between the person described in court documents and the man he portrayed himself to be. The friends, some of whom have known him since high school, said they saw Gligor as warm and gregarious. One person described him as "Zen." The

SEE GLIGOR ON A16

METRO

No charges are filed in a fatal fight in D.C. outside a downtown restaurant.

SPORTS

Go behind the scenes for the first Commanders draft under Adam Peters.

ARTS & STYLE

🔊 Dang! Gosh! Cult phenom "Napoleon Dynamite" turns 20.

BUSINESS

Affirmative action is under attack. A timeline of how we got here.



BOOK WORLD

🔊 Emily Nussbaum's "Cue the Sun" explores how reality TV got cruel.

TRAVEL

D.C. souvenir shops know what sells: bucket hats and Trump merch.

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