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Democracy Dies in Darkness

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2024 • \$3

Pyongyang tests new ballistic missile

U.S. condemns launch as N. Korean troops appear set to join Ukraine war

BY MICHAEL BIRNBAUM AND MICHELLE YE HEE LEE

North Korean troops are likely to join combat operations against Ukrainian forces inside Russia in the “coming days” after about 8,000 of them have been deployed to the occupied Kursk region, Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Thursday, hours after Pyongyang launched a powerful new ballistic missile in a double display of bellicosity.

The sizable, rapid deployment of the North Korean personnel marks a rare instance of Russia’s need for military help on its own soil, as Ukraine has successfully held the border territory since its surprise incursion in August. The Biden administration believes Russia has trained the North Koreans to operate artillery and drones and perform basic infantry operations such as trench clearing, signs they are about to join the fighting, Blinken said.

To date, about 10,000 North Korean troops have been deployed to Russia, U.S. and South Korean officials have said.

Speaking in Washington alongside their South Korean counterparts, Blinken and Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said the U.S. government had appealed to China, which has deep economic ties with Moscow and Pyongyang, and urged its leaders to intervene. Beijing, Austin said, “should be asking Russia some hard questions at this point about whether it intends to broaden this conflict.”

Officials said that what appeared to be an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) launched by North Korea earlier in the day

SEE MISSILE ON A13

In Vegas, Democratic union workers go all-in



MIKAYLA WHITMORE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Culinary union members Claudia Avalos, right, and Heather Lind canvass door to door in Las Vegas this week ahead of the election. Their union is part of the Democratic coalition that has been key to a 12-year presidential winning streak in Nevada. But that coalition could be fracturing. **Story, C1**

State Dept. faces possible gutting in a Trump term

BY KAREN DEYOUNG AND MICHAEL BIRNBAUM

In a radio interview early this month, Donald Trump was asked three times about relations with Chinese leader Xi Jinping. The first time brought a Trumpian riff on how there had been “no wars” during his administration. The second time, Trump compared an “extremely intelligent” Xi to the “not intelligent people that are running our country.”

Host Hugh Hewitt tried a third time, asking the Republican

Two groups’ blueprints seek to dismantle U.S. foreign policy apparatus

presidential nominee how he thought his opponent, Kamala Harris, would deal with Xi. Launching a rant on “vicious fascists and Marxists” in the current U.S. administration and the “enemy from within,” Trump quickly switched to “crazy as a

bedbug” Nancy Pelosi.

Getting Trump to focus on his foreign policy plans for a potential second term has proved elusive. Beyond general declarations that he would quickly resolve conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East, and be tough on trade and immigration, he has provided few and often contradictory answers. The best policy, he has indicated, will emerge from his own instincts, toughness and dealmaking prowess.

But there has been no shortage of proposals from Trump sup-

porters in Congress and in conservative think tanks, chief among them the 900-page Project 2025, a compendium of recommendations on both domestic and foreign policies by the Heritage Foundation, and a 340-page transition book on security policy published in May by the America First Policy Institute, launched in 2021 by a group of senior Trump administration veterans.

SEE POLICY ON A10

Canada: U.S. neighbor is trying to avert potential Trump policies. **A11**

School for enslaved children finally gets a place in history

The Bray School will open to the public next year in Williamsburg

BY SUSAN SVRLUGA

WILLIAMSBURG, VA. — Tonia Cansler Merideth stepped inside the 18th-century building and paused, as if listening. The wide floorboards had been worn down over the centuries, the newel at the base of the stairway smoothed by hundreds of hands. Propped along a wall next to a brick fireplace was a copy of a roster from the 1760s listing, in flowing script, the names of the children who attended the school that year. Three of the children named were free. Twenty-seven were enslaved.

“I’m just wishing I could hear their voices,” Merideth said, thinking about what it must have been like back then, with so many young students in a classroom space of just 17 by 14 feet.

The Williamsburg Bray School is expected to be dedicated as a part of Colonial Williamsburg on Friday, 250 years after the school closed on the tumultuous brink of the American Revolution. The building, overlooked for many years in a town fixated on history, is believed to be the country’s oldest surviving school cre-

ated for Black children. The school is expected to open to the public in the spring when its restoration is complete.

It’s a powerful visual symbol revealed at a time when politicians, parents and schools are debating what history needs to be told and remembered, with some states enacting laws and policies that change and limit what schools teach about American history, including slavery.

The dedication ceremony — to be held just days before a divisive presidential election — highlights the continuing tensions over the loftiest and most shameful aspects of our nation’s past.

Unveiling this school is a step toward acknowledging what happened within its walls and giving it a place in history, according to people studying it. If people can see it, they can learn about its complicated legacy.

SEE SCHOOL ON A24



JASON B. COPES/ARCHAEOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS, THE COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG FOUNDATION

Pencil fragments suggest Black children at Bray School may have been taught to write.



Guns. Knives. Hatchets. Bats. Bricks. Spears.

America’s anger is increasingly playing out on its roadways

Traffic Officer Anthony Williams spends his days on the road in San Antonio stopping, ticketing and documenting infractions. He sees his job as the 30-second transaction on the road, not what comes before or after. Every day, he fills his notebook with tallies of each traffic violation.

BY RUBY CRAMER

SAN ANTONIO — They arrive from the highways of San Antonio, where it is 91 degrees outside, and there is construction on the roads, and cell-phones are ringing, talk radio is blaring, people are tailgating, no one will let anyone into their lane, horns start honking, middle fingers go up, car doors fly open, and another day of road rage is underway in an increasingly angry country.

Now, in a small classroom on the edge of the city, Dean DeSoto, 70, looks over a roster for his class on aggressive driving.

“Good morning,” he says, as 19 people walk into the room looking the way they usually do at the start of class. Tired, annoyed, blank. Most of

them don’t want to be here, and DeSoto knows this. They are here because they have been ticketed, fined and sent here by a judge to learn how to manage their anger and anxiety on the road. They take their seats, and he begins to read aloud from a list of their citations, most of which look like speeding violations.

“90 in a 65 ... 94 in a 65 ... 102 in a 65 ... 105 in a 65 ... 112 in a 60.”

DeSoto, who runs a traffic safety nonprofit that partners with San Antonio’s city and county courts, has been teaching his aggressive driving class for 26 years, and in that time, he has come to believe several things. One is that what goes on in the country will play out on its roadways. Another is that anger on the roads is

SEE ROAD RAGE ON A16



PHOTOS BY ELI DURST FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

IN THE NEWS

Michigan still a toss-up A Post poll finds that voters in the battleground state are split 47 percent for Donald Trump and 45 percent for Kamala Harris. **A7**

A lost war game The Post obtained a 2002 report warning of military vulnerabilities that were exploited in Iraq and Afghanistan. **A2**

THE NATION

A House report urges reconsideration of aid for universities that failed to protect Jews. **A3**
Gun death rates in some U.S. states are comparable to conflict zones, a study found. **A3**

THE WORLD

Thousands who fled the Lebanese city of Baalbek watch its bombardment from afar. **A13**
Britain settled a groundbreaking legal case over a girl’s death from air pollution. **A15**

THE ECONOMY

New lawsuit details alleged that Apple told TikTok it was unfit for young teens and should raise its recommended age. **A14**
Starbucks announced it will end an upcharge to milk alternatives on Nov. 7 as it tries to boost declining revenue. **A14**

THE REGION

A former CIA employee was acquitted in an assault case that led the agency to examine its approach to sexual assault and harassment. **B1**
A Virginia assistant principal was charged with failure to report claims of assaults on students. **B1**

STYLE

Whether dressed as a garbage man or McDonald’s worker, Donald Trump’s costumes show how his cartoonish impulses function. **C1**

WEEKEND

Food critic Tom Sietsema shares his Top 8 Washington destinations for Indian cuisine.

BUSINESS NEWS.....A14
COMICS.....C5
OBITUARIES.....B4
OPINION PAGES.....A18
TELEVISION.....C4
WORLD NEWS.....A12

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