

ELECTION 2024

Hand count of ballots mandated in Georgia

Critics say new rule from pro-Trump board will delay results, add errors

BY AMY GARDNER

ATLANTA — The Georgia State Election Board approved a rule Friday requiring counties in the critical presidential battleground to hand-count the total number of ballots this year, potentially upending the November election by delaying the reporting of results.

The move was spearheaded by a pro-Trump majority that has enacted a series of changes to the state's election rules in recent weeks and approved the hand-count requirement despite a string of public commenters who begged board members not to.

Critics included democracy advocates who accused the board of intentionally injecting chaos and uncertainty into the presidential contest, as well as election supervisors and poll workers who said hand counts would take too long, cost money and almost certainly produce counting errors. The office of the Republican state attorney general, which is responsible for advising the board, wrote in an opinion that the change was unlawful.

The board voted 3-2 to approve the measure, which would require the hand count in addition to the customary machine count in each precinct. The rule requires the hand count to take place the night

SEE GEORGIA ON A6

Nebraska: Trump pushes for winner-take-all electoral voting. A2

North Carolina: Democrats hope candidate's troubles tar Trump. A6



PHOTOS BY AFP/GETTY IMAGES

A woman watches from a broken window near a building targeted by an Israeli airstrike in Beirut's southern suburbs Friday.

Mass sabotage is a triumph of intelligence, with unclear ends

BY SHANE HARRIS

Precisely how Israel managed to pack explosives into thousands of pagers and put them in the hands of Hezbollah remains mysterious, but this much is clear: The intelligence operation will be remembered as one of the most audacious in modern history.

Israel has turned personal communications equipment into weapons before, notably in 1996 when it killed Hamas's chief bombmaker with explosives hidden inside a cellphone. But this week's simultaneous, covert strikes at Hezbollah figures

across Lebanon were orders of magnitude more complicated, intelligence experts said, requiring Israel to convince the group that it had purchased and distributed ordinary beepers, not bombs.

The attack was followed the next day by another round of simultaneous detonations, this time with explosives apparently secreted inside walkie talkies, a rudimentary device that Hezbollah's leaders may have thought afforded some protection from Israel's electronic eavesdropping and spies, whose ability to turn cellphones into tracking devices

SEE PAGERS ON A11



An injured man is taken away Friday after the strike, which destroyed one residential building and badly damaged another.

Israeli airstrike kills top militant

SENIOR COMMANDER FOR HEZBOLLAH

At least 14 die in attack on suburb of Beirut

This article is by Louisa Loveluck, Mohamad El Chamaa, Miriam Berger, Susannah George and Victoria Bisset

Israel's military killed a senior Hezbollah commander and other operatives in an airstrike Friday in a Beirut suburb, escalating a days-long assault on the group's communications and logistics infrastructure and shocking an already traumatized nation fearful of all-out war.

The strike collapsed one residential building and heavily damaged another, killing at least 14 people, according to Lebanese health officials and emergency personnel. Israel said the operation killed prominent Hezbollah leader Ibrahim Aqil, along with other senior commanders. Hezbollah confirmed Aqil's death in a statement and said he was killed with "a group of martyred brothers" without elaborating.

The assassination capped a week of attacks across Lebanon that have taken aim at the group's conventional military capabilities, as well as its morale, striking leadership figures in crowded areas of the capital and killing and maiming rank-and file members by rigging their pagers and walkie-talkies to explode.

For Israel, whose forces are still operating in Gaza, the moves are a high-wire gamble: It wants to clip Hezbollah's wings so

SEE LEBANON ON A11

Secret Service spells out its failures at Trump rally

BY MARIA SACCHETTI AND MARK BERMAN

The Secret Service is responsible for multiple security failures that led to the July 13 assassination attempt against Donald Trump, the Republican candidate for president, at a campaign rally in Butler, Pa., according to the first report on the attack released Friday.

The elite protective agency's internal review found that agents failed to use technology that might have detected the attacker as he flew a drone over the rally venue hours earlier. Trump's protective detail had no idea police were frantically searching for a suspicious person, until shots were fired into the crowd.

And the Secret Service, which is the lead agency in charge of security for presidents, former leaders and other top U.S. officials, never directed local police snipers to cover a nearby rooftop even though the snipers were willing to do it, the report found.

Thomas Matthew Crooks, 20, was able that day to clamber atop that roof at the Butler Farm Show and fire multiple shots, killing rallygoer Corey Comperatore, and wounding Trump and two others. A Secret Service sniper stationed near Trump returned fire, killing Crooks.

SEE SECRET SERVICE ON A5



MARY BETH SHERIDAN/THE WASHINGTON POST

Yoleida Aponte, 34, a Venezuelan migrant, and her family were detained in Mexico and bused south.

Mexico's dragnet stems flow at border

Migrants are rounded up and sent southward, but many just try again

BY MARY BETH SHERIDAN

VILLAHERMOSA, MEXICO — With detentions at the U.S. border plunging to a four-year low, everyone is angling for the credit.

Democrats highlight President Joe Biden's tougher asylum policies. Republicans point to Gov. Greg Abbott's razor-wire barriers on the Texan border.

But a major reason for the drop can be seen 800 miles south of the

border in this sleepy, palm-shaded city closer to Guatemala than to the United States. Here, sleek white government buses roll in, one after another, to disgorge groups of bewildered migrants.

The foreigners have been stopped at highway checkpoints or plucked from buses and trains, caught in a massive dragnet set up by Mexico under U.S. pressure. But the government can't afford to deport them. So it sends them

back here to southern Mexico — where many simply turn around and head north again.

Officials call it "El Carrusel." The merry-go-round.

The tactic isn't totally new, but it is being employed more aggressively than ever before. Since the start of this year, the Mexican government has bused around 10,000 migrants a month to the south, roughly double the figure last year,

SEE MEXICO ON A10

Purdue's counterparts make millions abroad

Sackler family atop companies that use aggressive tactics to persuade doctors to prescribe opioids

BY MADLEN DAVIES, HRISTIO BOYTCHEV AND DAVID OVALLE

At home in the United States, Purdue Pharma, the drugmaker accused of fueling the opioid crisis through its aggressive marketing of highly addictive pain pills, is bankrupt and facing thousands of lawsuits.

Abroad, its global counterparts are selling opioids — and still profiting.

Among the beneficiaries: some members of the Sackler family, who own Purdue and also sit atop a group of international companies known as Mundipharma, records show. The family faces a wave of litigation over Purdue's alleged role in an opioid crisis that has claimed hundreds of thousands of lives and ruined countless more across the United States.

From 2020 to 2022, nine Mundipharma companies in Europe and Australia made profits of \$531 million on sales and distribution of pharmaceutical and other products, according to a first-of-its-kind analysis conducted as part of an investigation by journalists in eight countries. Total profits are probably higher because the figure does not include amounts, if any, from Mundipharma companies in jurisdictions that do not require disclosure of financial data.

The analysis provides a glimpse

into Mundipharma's value to possible buyers as the Sacklers approach a Sept. 27 bankruptcy court deadline that could end mediation meant to determine how much the family could have to pay to settle lawsuits related to the opioid crisis.

The Sacklers have previously pledged to sell their international companies to compensate U.S. cities, states, tribes, victims and others ravaged by the epidemic. Purdue, based in Stamford, Conn., still sells opioids such as oxycodone, though the company has been saddled with years of investigations, litigation and a massive bankruptcy reorganization.

Some of the same tactics used to persuade a generation of U.S. doctors that potent painkillers could be safely prescribed have been used abroad, the investigation found.

In Germany, Mundipharma sponsored a patients group that, on its website, encourages opioid use for chronic pain while minimizing addiction risk. In Italy, prosecutors accused two Mundipharma managers of illegally paying kickbacks to doctors to promote opioids, allegations the company disputes. In China, an internal company investigation raised concerns that scientific advisory boards were used as vehicles to promote products.

And in Brazil, the international

SEE OPIOIDS ON A4

IN THE NEWS

Dangerous fluctuations A study of the world's climate history associates dramatic temperature shifts with mass extinctions. A12

Key Bridge collapse Families of the six victims and the disaster's two survivors asked a judge to not cap any damages for the owner and operator of the container ship Dali. B1

THE NATION The Navy will apologize to Alaska Natives for two campaigns of terror in the 1800s. A3
Donald Trump said a revised indictment in D.C. is a threat to presidential immunity. A3

THE WORLD What to know about the slowdown in China's economy. A8
The European Union will provide a loan to Ukraine backed by profits from frozen Russian assets. A12

THE ECONOMY Microsoft is pushing to reopen the dormant Three Mile Island nuclear plant to power its AI projects. A13
Tariff proposals put forward by Donald Trump on the campaign trail are regularly putting Republicans in an awkward position. A14

THE REGION U-Md.'s president called for an independent review of his work after facing allegations of plagiarism. B1
Netflix's dating show "Love is Blind" revealed the 29 singles cast in its D.C. season, which is scheduled to premiere Oct. 2. B1

STYLE Kamala Harris could get a big boost if reggae-ton superstar Bad Bunny hops on the endorsement bandwagon. C1
SPORTS Arch Manning comes from football royalty and was a recruiting coup. Now, he gets his first start for No. 1 Texas. D1

BUSINESS NEWS.....A13
COMICS.....C5
OBITUARIES.....B4
OPINION PAGES.....A15
TELEVISION.....C3
WORLD NEWS.....A8

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0 170628 211001 3