



## Schools see a road map for efforts at diversity

Districts can't consider race, but socioeconomic factors may pass muster

BY LAURA MECKLER  
AND KARINA ELWOOD

When the Supreme Court last week allowed an elite magnet school in Northern Virginia to continue using a new system for admissions aimed at diversifying its student body, other schools were watching.

Across the country, districts have been unsettled by the make-up of their top academic programs, especially scant numbers of Black and Hispanic students, and many have implemented new admissions systems. But a question loomed: Would this be legal given the Supreme Court's decisions, including its ruling last year outlawing affirmative action for higher education?

Now schools may have something of a road map: Taking race into account is verboten, but consideration of neighborhood, socioeconomic and other factors might be all right.

"It's a huge relief," said Halley Potter, senior fellow at the Century Foundation, which advocates school integration policies. "It means that districts around the country can continue to use a full set of tools around socioeconomic factors to create diverse school environments."

This approach also may represent the future for colleges and universities, as they hunt for alternative routes to building diverse classes following the high court affirmative action ruling.

"All those universities, they want to promote diversity, but they also don't want to be the defendant in that future case," said Sonja Starr, a law professor at the University of Chicago who closely followed the Virginia case.

K-12 school districts have been grappling with how to foster diversity. [SEE ADMISSIONS ON A12](#)

## Patients with cancer fear Ala. ruling may stop IVF

BY SABRINA MALHI

A cancer diagnosis often comes with a host of difficult decisions, including what to do about the impact of treatment on a person's fertility. Many individuals grappling with this dual burden turn to in vitro fertilization (IVF) as a way to preserve their reproductive options.

That's why cancer patients and oncologists are expressing shock and anxiety about the recent ruling by the Alabama Supreme Court that frozen embryos are considered children under the law.

The ruling is already having a chilling effect on IVF clinics in the state. Worries are mounting that other states could adopt similar rulings that would impede fertility medicine for people, including many cancer patients, who say assisted reproductive technology might be their only way of having children. [SEE IVF ON A2](#)

**Congress:** Republicans' stances on IVF and abortion are colliding. [A2](#)

**Ala. ruling fallout:** Experts fear a shortage of doctors in the state. [A3](#)

## In scorching heat, farmworkers set their own rules



EVA MARIE UZCATEGUI FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

A years-long push in Fla. forges workplace protections against sweltering conditions

BY NICOLÁS RIVERO IN IMMOKALEE, FLA.

**Farmworkers harvest tomatoes on a farm owned by Sunripe Certified Brands in Immokalee, Fla. Sunripe farms follow workplace safety protocols set by the Fair Food Program.**

The sweet, earthy scent of tomatoes hangs in the air as a crew of 44 workers speeds through rows of vines. They fill 32-pound buckets with fruit, then deliver them to co-workers waiting on the backs of flatbed trucks who dump the contents into crates to be sorted and packaged.

During an eight-hour shift, each worker hauls an average of about three tons of tomatoes. They work at this pace all winter in this small farming community in southwest Florida — and all summer on a farm in Tennessee, where temperatures can reach the 90s.

But unlike at many other farms, every worker takes a 10-minute break every two hours during the hottest part of the

year. When they feel the effects of heat illness coming on, they have the right to cool down in the shade. Sunripe Certified Brands, the company that owns the farm, must provide clean water, shaded rest areas and nearby bathrooms for all of its workers.

These are the strongest set of workplace heat protections in the United States. They were not put in place by local, state or federal regulators, but by the workers who spent years organizing to push companies to adopt them.

Created in 2011 by the Coalition of Immokalee Workers, a nonprofit that represents farmworkers, the Fair Food Program certifies farms that follow a set of standards. [SEE OSHA ON A8](#)

## 'People would move in here today if they could'

In Maui, tiny homes are ready to house fire survivors, but red tape is keeping them vacant

BY REIS THEBAULT

KAHULUI, HAWAII — Nesi and LJ Va'a pass the place where their new home should be at least once a day. They say a quick prayer as they drive by. At this point, that's pretty much all they can do.

The couple and three of their kids fled Lahaina on foot as their apartment burned in the August wildfires. They lost everything but the clothes they were wearing — and each other.

Since then, like thousands of other West Maui families, they've been living in American Red Cross shelters at local hotels, and they've been shuffled between facilities seven times as the resorts make space for the slow return of tourists to the island.

The plot they now pray over promised stability. The site, vacant land owned by a nearby Christian church, was supposed to host 88 tiny homes, newly constructed to provide two years of rent-free housing for 350 fire survivors. And for months, dozens of tiny homes have been built but remain empty. [SEE MAUI ON A16](#)



SARAH L. VOISIN/THE WASHINGTON POST

**Nesi Va'a and her family have lived in hotels since their Lahaina apartment burned down in August. They are in line to move to a temporary tiny-home development, but delays have plagued the project.**

## Clock ticks on Trump's penalties

OVER \$500M OWED; BUSINESS IS AT RISK

To delay enforcement, he must post cash or bonds

BY JONATHAN O'CONNELL,  
SHAYNA JACOBS  
AND JOSH DAWSEY

Hours after a New York judge ordered Donald Trump to pay a \$355 million penalty for submitting false data to financial institutions, the former president railed against the decision during a fundraiser at his Mar-a-Lago Club with some of the Republican Party's wealthiest donors.

Trump claimed at that Feb. 16 gathering that the judge in the civil fraud case had made history by ordering him to pay such a staggering sum, according to two people who were there. He suggested that the judgment was so severe that the public would consider it unfair and rally in support. Over and over, he returned to the penalty, livid at its size.

The episode offered a glimpse of Trump's preoccupation with a legal decision that threatens his wealth and has thrust his business empire into greater uncertainty than perhaps any time since the 1990s, when his Atlantic City casinos fell into extreme debt, leading six of his companies to file for bankruptcy.

Trump, who built his business and political identities around boasts of financial savvy, now faces an immediate cash crunch of more than a half-billion dollars — the combined cost of two legal battles that will now test the limits of his personal wealth.

According to state Supreme Court records, Trump owes more than \$500 million in penalties. [SEE TRUMP ON A4](#)

**By the numbers:** How the N.Y. fraud trial penalties add up. [A4](#)

## Haley's bid has become vehicle for discontent

BY HANNAH KNOWLES

She came in third in Iowa. She lost by double digits in New Hampshire. In Nevada — where Donald Trump's name wasn't on the primary ballot — Nikki Haley trailed "none of these candidates" by more than 30 points.

Haley has now suffered another blow in the lopsided race for the Republican presidential nomination, losing to Trump by about 20 points in her home state of South Carolina. Yet she promised to press on.

"In the next 10 days, another 21 states and territories will speak," Haley said Saturday night. "They have the right to a real choice, not a Soviet-style election with only one candidate. And I have a duty to give them that choice."

As the last Republican candidate standing against Trump, Haley has drawn polarized reactions as she has become a vehicle for the deep discontent that some in the party feel about a Trump rematch with President Biden. More a symbolic reservoir for that sentiment than an obstacle on Trump's path to the nomination, Haley has positioned herself as a bridge between the two camps. [SEE HALEY ON A6](#)

## IN THE NEWS

**Ukraine's war dead** The nation has lost 31,000 troops since Russia invaded, President Volodymyr Zelensky said, publicly providing an official estimate for the first time. [A12](#)

**Israel-Gaza war** The United States hopes a final agreement on a cease-fire can be reached "in the coming days," a top official said. [A12](#)

**THE NATION**  
**At January's end,** President Biden's campaign had \$56 million in cash to Donald Trump's \$30.5 million. [A6](#)  
**Negotiations to avert** a partial government shutdown slowed. [A13](#)

**THE WORLD**  
**A potential war** with Israel poses catastrophe for Lebanon, already in economic crisis. [A10](#)  
**The United States** is struggling to wield influence in West Africa as military juntas rise. [A11](#)

**THE ECONOMY**  
**An outage** of cellphone service reveals the necessity of backup plans, Shira Ovide writes. [A13](#)

**THE REGION**  
**A janitorial services** company illegally employed children to clean slaughterhouse equipment in Virginia, federal officials alleged. [B1](#)

**National Zoo** officials said they are in talks about developing a new giant panda program. [B1](#)  
**In the 1960s,** the Howard University men's crew team made history as the nation's first all-Black competitive rowing team — then won the Washington Regatta. [B1](#)

**STYLE**  
**AI will change** porn forever, adult entertainment companies claim. It's unclear who will benefit. [C1](#)  
**Rachel Tashjian** dissects the reality and delusion of Milan Fashion Week, where the clothes are almost uniformly out of reach. [C1](#)

**BUSINESS NEWS**.....A13  
**COMICS**.....C6  
**OPINION PAGES**.....A14  
**OBITUARIES**.....B4  
**TELEVISION**.....C4  
**WORLD NEWS**.....A10

CONTENT © 2024  
The Washington Post  
Year 147, No. 53773

