

Supreme Court likely to keep Trump on ballot

BY ANN E. MARIMOW AND PATRICK MARLEY

The Supreme Court on Thursday seemed poised to allow former president Donald Trump to remain on the Colorado ballot, expressing deep concerns about permitting a single state to disqualify the leading Republican candidate from seeking national office.

Justices from across the ideo-

In Colorado case, justices signal unease over political consequences

logical spectrum warned of troubling political ramifications if they do not reverse a ruling from Colorado's top court that ordered Trump off the ballot after finding

that he engaged in insurrection around the Jan. 6, 2021, assault on the U.S. Capitol.

The court was considering the unprecedented and consequential question of whether a state court can enforce a rarely invoked, post-Civil War provision of the Constitution to disqualify Trump from returning to the White House.

During more than two hours of argument, the justices asked

questions that suggested their often divided bench could reach a unanimous or near-unanimous decision to reject the challenge to Trump's eligibility brought by six Colorado voters. Not since the court's 2000 ruling in *Bush v. Gore*, which focused on ballot-counting and sealed the election

SEE COLORADO ON A4

Takeaways: Justices' skepticism crossed ideological lines. A4

Biden won't face charges in probe of classified files

PROSECUTION 'UNWARRANTED,' REPORT SAYS

Special counsel outlines differences from Trump case

BY PERRY STEIN AND DEVLIN BARRETT

Joe Biden carelessly kept classified documents and notebooks at his home, according to a special counsel report released Thursday that said the evidence wasn't strong enough to charge the president with crimes. The report's description of Biden as "an elderly man with a poor memory" prompted a furious response from the president at a hastily called news conference hours later.

The 345-page special counsel report portrays Biden, 81, as someone who haphazardly kept notebooks and documents with classified information at his home, and struggled to recall key dates in his life. Republicans quickly seized on that stinging

characterization to attack the Democratic incumbent as unfit for office.

Special counsel Robert K. Hur's report also said Biden could not remember the year in which his son Beau died of cancer.

"How in the hell dare he raise that," a furious president said to reporters summoned to the White House on Thursday evening. "It wasn't any of their damn business. ... I don't need anyone to remind me when he passed away."

In an exchange with reporters that veered from questions about possible national security crimes to the president's mental faculties to the ongoing U.S. response to the war in the Middle East, Biden insisted he never improperly shared classified information

SEE REPORT ON A5



'No one is coming to save you'

A Maui community tries to fill the void as cascading disasters stretch government

BY REIS THEBAULT IN KULA, HAWAII

When sparks lit the deadliest wildfire in modern U.S. history in Lahaina, another corner of this island had been spewing smoke all night.

Wind-whipped flames tore down a gulch in Maui's Upcountry, a rural area 20 miles east where homes are perched amid thick forests on the slopes of the dormant Haleakala volcano. The fire burned hotter than the surface of Venus, turning farms, homes and cars into ash, and transforming a serene mountain community into a wasteland of embers.

The second inferno, which destroyed much of the treasured town of Lahaina and claimed 100 lives, quickly overshadowed the calamity in Kula. In the days and months that followed, Upcountry residents grew frustrated with a government bureaucracy stretched thin by multiple disasters.

At the same time, the attention of many people elsewhere on the island and state has faded, even though the Kula fire is still burning — in root systems and buried debris, occasionally bursting into the open in terrifying flare-ups.

SEE FIRE ON A18



PHOTOS BY SARAH L. VOISIN/THE WASHINGTON POST

TOP: Misha Fehlmann, 7, walks on the lot in Kula, Hawaii, where his family's home stood before a wildfire struck in August. ABOVE: Kari McCarthy tears up as she talks about the destruction of her home of 40 years.

'Social sportsbook' apps draw users and scrutiny

Outlets lure young fans, alarming advocates who fear gambling addiction

BY RICK MAESE AND ROMAN STUBBS

In the days leading up to kick-off, users of Fliff, a popular mobile gaming app, placed more than 200,000 "bets" on last month's NFL conference championship games. They bet on Patrick Mahomes throwing for at least 240 yards, on Christian McCaffrey scoring the first touchdown and on the usual array of money line, point spread and over-under offerings.

They did it, in many cases, without verifying their age or even spending a dollar.

That's because Fliff is not a traditional online sportsbook. It's

a "social sportsbook," and a pillar of its business model involves users making bets with "virtual currency." That has enabled Fliff and apps like it to operate with little interference from state or federal authorities that regulate sports betting despite being marketed in some places as "suitable for ages 13 and up" and easily downloaded by even younger users.

The apps, advocates warn, can essentially groom underage people, training them to gamble at ages when they are more susceptible to addiction. And though the apps are mostly played using virtual money, Fliff and some like it allow users to make in-app purchases with a credit card and wager actual money. Fliff claims it functions as a legal sweepstakes contest, not a sports-betting enterprise, a distinction that troubles many stakeholders in the industry.

SEE SPORTS BETTING ON A6

Ukraine's front-line units acutely short on infantry



WOJCIECH GRZEDZINSKI FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Recruits in Donbas, Ukraine, on Monday. Commanders say they're in dire need of reinforcements.

Kyiv strains to pay its forces as commanders point to desperate need

BY ISABELLE KHURSHUDYAN AND ANASTACIA GALOUCHKA

KRAMATORSK, UKRAINE — The Ukrainian military is facing a critical shortage of infantry, leading to exhaustion and diminished morale on the front line, military personnel in the field said this week — a perilous new dynamic for Kyiv nearly two years into the grinding, bloody war with Russia.

In interviews across the front line in recent days, nearly a dozen soldiers and commanders told The Washington Post that personnel deficits were their most critical problem now, as Russia has regained the offensive initiative on the battlefield and is stepping up its attacks.

One battalion commander in a

SEE UKRAINE ON A12

Zaluzhny out: Zelensky named a new top military commander. A12

IN THE NEWS

Ukraine bill A surprise show of GOP support in the Senate moves the U.S. closer to sending military aid to Kyiv for the first time in over a year — and to Israel for its war in Gaza. A10

Artificial intelligence in D.C. Mayor Muriel E. Bowser (D) signs an order establishing values for city agencies' use of the technology. B1

THE NATION President Biden and Donald Trump jockeyed to leverage the border deal's collapse. A3

Gun-control advocates hope the conviction of a school shooter's mother helps deter violence. A6

THE WORLD A rare dinosaur seen as a T. rex of the ocean is having a paleontological moment. A7

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's political future is again in peril. A10

THE ECONOMY Reports of attacks, harassment and sexual assault in virtual reality should be taken seriously, activists say. A13

A California bill would require that AI tools be tested before being released, a move that could inspire regulation across the nation. A14

THE REGION Five Red Line stations will close this summer as links are built between Metro and Maryland's Purple Line. B1

Fairfax County police are the first to go all-in on a Kevlar cord-shooting device designed to subdue suspects with minimal harm. B1

SPORTS The Wizards made a move at the NBA's trade deadline, shipping center Daniel Gafford to the Dallas Mavericks. D1

WEEKEND Check out the best D.C.-area Valentine's Day events — even if you dread the holiday and no matter your mind-set.

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