

ELECTION 2024

Biden and Trump trade barbs at border

Fiery rhetoric, 300 miles apart, offers preview of campaign to come

BY YASMEEN ABUTALEB AND MARIANNE LEVINE

BROWNSVILLE, TEX. — President Biden and former president Donald Trump visited separate Texas border towns 300 miles apart on Thursday, blaming each other for a surge in illegal immigration and seeking to take the offensive on an issue that is shaping up to be a critical and volatile factor in this year's presidential contest.

Biden used his visit to Brownsville, a Democratic stronghold, to blame Trump, the leading Republican presidential candidate, for killing a bipartisan border bill that would have provided \$20 billion to hire thousands of new Border Patrol agents and asylum officers and increase detention capacity. The measure also would

SEE BORDER ON A4

Migrant crisis: Two Texas cities take polar opposite approaches. **A6**

Chaotic aid delivery in Gaza turns deadly



AFP/GETTY IMAGES

People mourn over a body outside al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza City after a deadly early-morning incident Thursday when a crowd of people converged on a rare humanitarian aid convoy. Israeli and Palestinian officials traded blame as to what triggered the incident.

ISRAEL BLAMES STAMPEDE BY CROWD

Palestinians say IDF gunfire killed at least 100

BY MIRIAM BERGER, LOUISA LOVELUCK AND HAJAR HARB

JERUSALEM — More than 100 people were killed Thursday, Gaza health officials said, after a crowd converged on a rare humanitarian aid convoy in Gaza City, triggering a chaotic incident that Palestinian officials and eyewitnesses blamed on Israeli gunfire and Israeli officials blamed on a stampede.

More than 700 Palestinians were wounded, according to the Gaza Health Ministry, as the death toll in the enclave surged past 30,000.

Though many details of the incident were still unclear — including, most critically, what had caused such a heavy human toll — it underscored the desperate plight of Gaza's civilians and further complicated delicate international efforts to secure a cease-fire.

For months, amid the wholesale destruction of urban areas, mass displacement and mounting hunger, aid groups and humanitarian officials had warned that

SEE ISRAEL ON A10

Aid for Gaza: Flights from Jordan airdrop tons of necessities. **A10**

Alabama city spotlights right's souring on Ukraine

Many Republicans who once backed war aid now see it as a costly diversion from domestic issues

BY DANIELLE PAQUETTE

HUNTSVILLE, ALA. — In the early days, long before Russia's war entered its third year, drivers honked and smiled when Natalia Reznick stood by the roadside holding her handmade sign: "Support Ukraine."

Then, one afternoon in November, a man lowered his truck window and flipped her off.

She might have dismissed that as a fluke if, a few weeks later, another man hadn't approached her booth in a Trader Joe's parking lot and asked, "Haven't we given you enough money?"

"The hostility shocked me," recalled Reznick, 44, whose late father was Ukrainian. "I felt it then — the shift."

She had been trying to collect a couple hundred dollars for food and medicine. Yet somewhere along the way, even a stay-at-home mom's little charity effort outside a northern Alabama grocery store became mired in another American culture clash.

To many Republicans here and across the country, "Support

SEE UKRAINE ON A11

Nuclear threat: Putin warns of use of arms if NATO enters Ukraine. **A10**



KEVIN WURM FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

A young girl wearing a traditional Ukrainian wreath and wrapped in a flag attends a rally for Ukraine on Saturday in Huntsville, Ala.

Congress passes stopgap bill to fend off shutdown

BY JACOB BOGAGE

Congress passed legislation Thursday to prevent a looming partial government shutdown, extending funding for federal agencies later into March — and teeing up another mad scramble over policy and spending negotiations with another shutdown deadline only about a week away.

The stopgap spending bill — known as a continuing resolution, or CR — cleared the Senate by a 77-13 vote Thursday evening after winning House approval by a 320-99 margin in the afternoon.

The legislation pushes the

funding deadline to March 8 for several agencies, including the Departments of Veterans Affairs, Transportation, Energy, Agriculture, Interior, and Housing and Urban Development, as well as the Environmental Protection Agency. Financing for most of those agencies was set to expire Saturday just after midnight.

Funding for the rest of the federal government under the bill expires March 22, two weeks later than under current law. The measure now heads to President Biden's desk for his signature.

"What we have done today has overcome the opposition of the

SEE SHUTDOWN ON A18

Teixeira to plead guilty in massive Discord leak

Military computer tech is charged in wide-ranging national security breach

BY SHANE HARRIS

Jack Teixeira, a young military computer technician accused of leaking highly classified government intelligence, will enter a guilty plea before a federal district court judge in Boston on Monday. Federal prosecutors on Thursday filed a motion notifying the judge that Teixeira intended to change his earlier plea of not guilty.

Teixeira was accused of using his top-secret security clearance to access classified government computer networks on an Air Force base in Cape Cod, where he worked with a unit providing intelligence support to the military. A Washington Post investigation revealed that, while Teixeira was serving in the Massachusetts Air National Guard, he shared hundreds of classified

documents as well as his own summaries of classified reports on Discord, an online chat platform popular with video gamers.

Teixeira's leaks revealed information about the Russia-Ukraine war, China's development of hypersonic spy drones, North Korea's nuclear weapons development, conflicts in the Middle East and the Ukrainian sabotage of the Nord Stream natural gas pipeline.

Teixeira, 22, was arrested last April and charged with six counts of illegal retention and transmission of national defense information. If he had been found guilty at trial, he would have faced a prison sentence of 30 years to life, according to federal sentencing guidelines. A guilty plea suggests Teixeira will serve substantially less time.

The leaks were seen as one of the most serious breaches of U.S. national security in recent years. Teixeira had been sharing information in a small Discord server that he formed with friends during the covid-19 pandemic. He also posted classified information

SEE TEIXEIRA ON A2

CAPITAL LETTERS

Giving beloved pets a 'peaceful experience'

Veterinarian Karen Meyers traverses the D.C. area, offering in-home euthanasia to grieving families



MARVIN JOSEPH/THE WASHINGTON POST

Eden Gaines pets her boxer-Great Dane mix, Xochi, on Feb. 14. Xochi, who had cancer, was euthanized at home, surrounded by family members. Lap of Love offers vet referrals for such services.

BY JUSTIN WM. MOYER

Veterinarian Karen Meyers pulls her black minivan into the driveway of a townhouse in Maryland's National Harbor. The home, in a gated community, is perched on a windy bluff not far from restaurants, bars, a casino — places of revelry.

The vet carries her brown doctor's bag inside. There, she meets her patient: Xochitl, known as Xochi, an 11-year-old boxer-Great Dane mix weighing around 80 pounds.

Xochi, recently diagnosed with cancer, is struggling. A film covers her right eye. She had been bleeding from her mouth, refusing to eat. Now she stands in the townhouse's living room, mournfully greeting family members who have come to say goodbye.

Xochi climbs onto the living room's leather couch and lies down. Owner Eden Gaines and her family gather around her. Meyers opens her bag.

Meyers explains the procedure.

SEE PETS ON A7

IN THE NEWS

Fears of vigilantism Transgender rights activists see a witch-hunt atmosphere spreading as states impose bans on treatment, restrictions on athletes and other limits. **A8**

Texas blaze A snow shower across the state's panhandle eased conditions for firefighters battling the state's largest fire on record. **A18**

THE NATION **Alabama lawmakers** backed IVF legal protections after turmoil from a recent court ruling. **A2** **The CDC's plan** to ease covid isolation guidance has alarmed high-risk patients. **A3**

THE WORLD **Amid multiple** crises, Iran planned to hold elections Friday for parliament and the body that could choose the country's next supreme leader. But critics are urging a boycott. **A9**

THE ECONOMY **The growth** of electric-vehicle sales is slowing down as gas prices decline and worries about a lack of charging stations persist. **A12** **The co-founders** of Trump Media alleged that Donald Trump and other leaders schemed to reduce their stake. **A13**

THE REGION **D.C. police** arrested a man in connection with the shooting of an officer at a Navy Yard apartment building. **B1** **A defiant** Capitol rioter was sentenced to 3½ years in prison during a hearing in which he repeatedly jeered the judge. **B1**

STYLE **A zombie CVS** in D.C. got spun by the culture wars into a symbol for the nation's shoplifting panic. **C1** **WEEKEND** **Tom Sietsema** finds five great D.C.-area restaurants with a little help from reader recommendations.

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Year 147, No. 53777

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