



Warmer with rain 69/65 • Tomorrow: A t-storm 79/63 C10

Democracy Dies in Darkness

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Boeing set for launch after string of missteps

Years behind schedule, Starliner will take human crew into orbit this week

BY CHRISTIAN DAVENPORT

Before a door-size panel blew out of a Boeing 737 Max, leaving a gaping hole in the side of an Alaska Airlines aircraft shortly after takeoff; before whistleblowers came forward to say they were threatened for bringing up safety issues at the company; and before the Justice Department opened a criminal investigation into the blowout incident, Boeing was struggling with another set of issues, on another high-profile vehicle.

Its Starliner spacecraft, designed to fly astronauts to orbit under a \$4.2 billion contract from NASA, had suffered a series of problems that put its launch with astronauts years behind schedule. Its onboard computer had failed during its first test flight. A second test flight was scrubbed after valves in the vehicle's service module stuck and wouldn't operate. Then, after the craft finally flew a test mission successfully without anyone on board, Boeing discovered that tape used as insulation on wiring inside the capsule was flammable and would need to be removed. The parachute system also had problems, which forced the company to redesign and strengthen a link between the parachutes and the spacecraft.

Now, a decade after NASA awarded Boeing a contract to fly astronauts to the International Space Station, Boeing will finally attempt to fly its Starliner spacecraft with people onboard. If all goes to plan, at 10:34 p.m. on Monday, the company is set to fly a pair of veteran astronauts, Sunita Williams and Barry "Butch" Wilmore, on a mission that will be one of the most significant tests for Boeing's space division — and

SEE BOEING ON A5

In the opaque world of IVF, errors rarely made public

BY LENNY BERNSTEIN AND YEGANEH TORBATI

It was one of the worst accidents in the history of reproductive medicine.

A storage tank at a San Francisco fertility center imploded, its trove of 4,000 human eggs and embryos damaged or destroyed. A jury later found that a manufacturing defect was largely to blame for the disaster but also implicated the center. The lab director had unplugged a malfunctioning computer, muting 128 alarms that warned of trouble. Lab personnel did not transfer the contents of the vessel to a backup tank when the computer failed. And there is no evidence that repairs were initiated for the 13 days between these first problems and the implosion.

The missteps were revealed only because a lawsuit and 2021 civil trial offered a rare glimpse inside the closed world of U.S. fertility care. Most of the time, experts say, errors and accidents go unreported in the burgeoning fertility industry, which is largely

SEE IVF ON A8



FAR LEFT: Dean Kahler, 74, was left paralyzed on May 4, 1970, when Ohio National Guard troops fired on protesters at Kent State University. **LEFT:** Students Camille Tinnin, left, and Magdalen Weiss-Vopat say the school's past offers lessons for today's student protest movement. **BELOW:** Lights mark the site of the shooting.

Applying the lessons of tragic legacy

Kent State activists worry that schools haven't learned from the 1970 shooting on its campus

BY JONATHAN EDWARDS IN KENT, OHIO

Atop Blanket Hill, a brass plaque reads "Ohio National Guard Firing Position." A nearby steel sculpture is marred by a bullet hole. Smaller, circular plaques dot one side of the hill and the asphalt parking lot below, all signaling spots on the Kent State University campus where nine students were shot and wounded by soldiers on May 4, 1970.

Their names and the distances the bullets traveled are recorded on the markers. So, too, are the names of four students who were killed.

In the decades since the horror of that afternoon forced a national reckoning over the Vietnam War, the trauma and the lessons to emerge from it have become embedded in the university's DNA. Both help explain why, even as campuses across the country erupt in ugly conflicts over the Israel-Gaza war, the community here goes about its activism differently.

Kent State's curriculum includes courses centered on the massacre. Its May 4 Visitors Center details what preceded the shooting and the steps needed to prevent something similar from ever happening again. Freshmen go there every fall as part of their orientation.

SEE KENT STATE ON A12



PHOTOS BY MADELINE HORDINSKI FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

A 3-year-old is fatally shot, and D.C. is left staggered again

BY PETER HERMANN, DANNY NGUYEN, CLARENCE WILLIAMS AND MARTIN WEIL

She loved french fries, and pizza with "everything on it." Ty'ah Settles covered the walls of her family's apartment in Southeast Washington with colorful doodles. She was looking forward to starting day care in August.

On Friday night, D.C. police said, Ty'ah was riding in an SUV

that went through a gun battle near her home. The cheerful 3-year-old, the daughter her mother had always wanted and called her "twin," was killed by a stray bullet.

"She brightened a room," said Ty'ah's mother, Darnisha Pelzer. "Everyone loved her."

Ty'ah was the District's 58th homicide victim this year, and the youngest. Hours earlier, in a separate incident, a high school student was grazed in the head by a stray bullet that flew

through a classroom window. According to a police affidavit filed in court, both suspects in the shooting were seniors at the school.

Deadly crime rose in cities across the country during the coronavirus pandemic, but it has been slower to recede in D.C. than elsewhere, unnerving residents and prompting a rollback of criminal justice measures. Officials have blamed other factors, including arrest rates and court rulings, for the failure to stem the



Police said Ty'ah Settles, 3, was struck by at least one of a barrage of bullets fired on Hartford Street SE.

violence.

Violent crime is down from last year's historic peak, which ended with the most homicides in a quarter-century, and Mayor Muriel E. Bowser (D) suggested

last week that reporters were failing to cover the positive trend. She has yet to comment publicly on the two shootings.

In Friday's deadly shooting, police said more than two dozen bullets were fired along Hartford Street SE, scattering shell casings on sidewalks and a road around the corner from a fire station in Garfield Heights. Police said at least one of those bullets struck the SUV that Ty'ah was in. Nobody else was reported injured.

SEE SHOOTING ON A7



TEO ARMUS/THE WASHINGTON POST

Players take part in an April 21 soccer tournament in Baltimore in honor of Miguel Luna, who was working on the Key Bridge when it collapsed in March. His body was recovered last week.

After bridge disaster, soccer brings solace

Grieving son, other players return to familiar field

BY TEO ARMUS

BALTIMORE — Marvin Luna fished into his bag and eyed the cleats he had brought, just in case.

The 28-year-old had not been planning to play soccer. His knee had been acting up again, and he had agreed to work in his family's food truck, parked near this patch of green synthetic turf.

But as former teammates patted him on the shoulder on their way to the field — *that* field — it was hard not to think of his father. This was where Miguel Luna, once a semipro soccer player back in El Salvador, had spent so many weekends coaching his son and cheering from the sidelines. It

was where the two had trained and competed with a team of men from their hometown. Now, on this overcast Sunday, it was the site of a soccer tournament to honor his dad's memory.

Nearly a month had passed since a massive container ship struck the Francis Scott Key Bridge, causing it to collapse while a construction crew was repairing potholes on the span overnight. Six of the workers — including Miguel Luna, a 49-year-old father of three — fell to their deaths into the river below.

Authorities vowed to search through the massive pieces of concrete and mangled steel for

SEE LUNA ON A10

METRO
Attacks fly ahead of the Democratic primary in Md.'s split 6th District.

SPORTS
Mystik Dan prevails at the 150th Kentucky Derby in a photo finish.



TRAVEL
World of Rick Steves: So much more complex than who you see on TV.

ARTS & STYLE
Tom Selleck is 79 and, whew, just look at that magnificent specimen.



BOOK WORLD
"The Ministry of Time" is part thriller, part romance and a lot of fun.

BUSINESS
Giant cargo ships were Baltimore port's financial salvation and its curse.

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