

# The Washington Post

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Some p.m. rain 79/59 • Tomorrow: Cloudy 77/61 B6

Democracy Dies in Darkness

TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 2024 • \$3

## Trump says abortion should be states' issue

In video that draws some GOP criticism, he is silent on a national ban

BY HANNAH KNOWLES  
AND MARIANNE LEVINE

Former president Donald Trump, who has wavered between highlighting and downplaying his role in curtailing abortion rights, suggested Monday that the politically volatile issue should be left to states, after months of mixed signals about his position.

In a video posted on social media, Trump took credit for the overturning of *Roe v. Wade* but was silent about a national ban of any length, which some antiabortion groups had pressed his campaign to embrace. It is “now up to the states to do the right thing,” Trump said.

“My view is now that we have abortion where everybody wanted it from a legal standpoint, the states will determine by vote or legislation or perhaps both, and whatever they decide must be the law of the land. In this case, the law of the state,” Trump said in the video.

Trump campaigned in 2016 on appointing Supreme Court justices who would overturn *Roe v. Wade* and became a champion of the antiabortion movement. But he has waffled on the issue since *Roe* fell in 2022, as Republicans up and down the ballot have paid a political price for unpopular bans. Democrats have made abortion central to their case against Trump, relentlessly reminding

SEE TRUMP ON A6

## Guns flow from U.S. to gangs in Haiti

The influx of firearms is a growing problem across the Caribbean

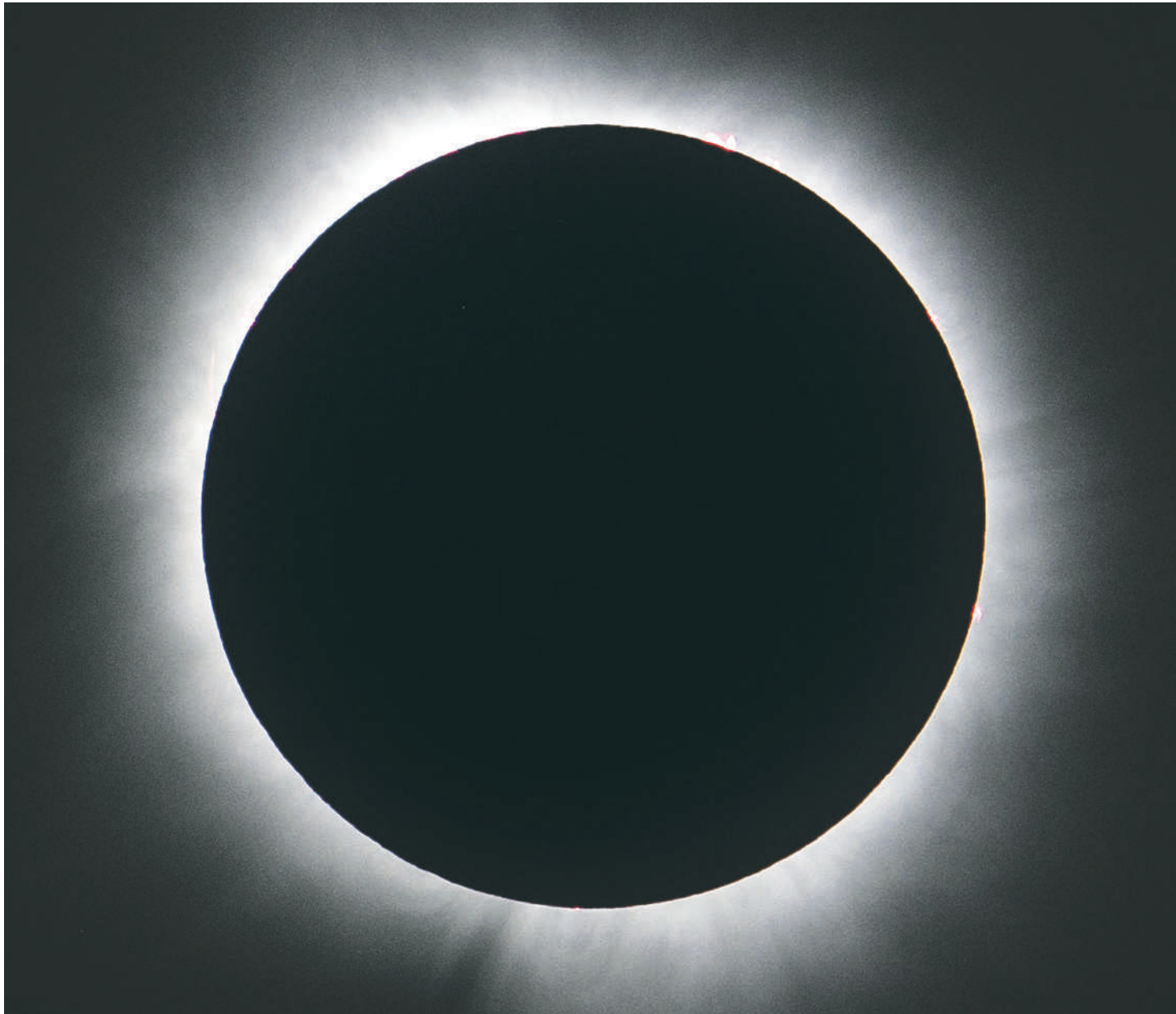
BY WIDLORE MÉRANCOURT  
AND AMANDA COLETTA

PORT-AU-PRINCE, HAITI — When Walder St. Louis entered the Miami pawnshop in October 2021, his shopping list contained just a few items: two AK-47s and an AR-15.

Germine Joly, then head of the Haitian gang 400 Mawozo, had placed the order from a Port-au-Prince prison. St. Louis would soon send two barrels of firearms back to the Haitian capital.

Heavily armed gangs control 80 percent of Port-au-Prince, the United Nations has estimated, where they rape, kidnap and kill with impunity. Haiti doesn't manufacture firearms, and the United Nations prohibits importing them, but that's no problem for the criminals. When they go shopping, the United States is their gun store. The semiautomatic rifles that have wrought human carnage from an elementary school in Newtown, Conn., to a Walmart in El Paso are also

SEE HAITI ON A16



JONATHAN NEWTON FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Monday's solar eclipse, as seen from Russellville, Ark., which was in totality for 4 minutes and 12 seconds.

## Screams, tears as eclipse stuns

Americans took in the awe-inspiring view in communities across the 115-mile-wide path of totality

BY JOEL ACHENBACH,  
ARELIS R. HERNÁNDEZ,  
JOANNA SLATER  
AND SCOTT DANCE

DALLAS — Would the total solar eclipse, the last to cross the United States for two decades, live up to the hype?

In a city where history suggested clear skies were likely, forecasts of stubborn clouds threatened for days, hours — and even minutes ahead of the stunning syzygy.

Perhaps it was the cooling effect of the moon's shadows, or just luck, but as totality approached, the cumulus clouds parted. Conditions became immaculate.

“On a scale of one to 10? 30,” said Mike Alexander, 59, who traveled to Dallas from Fresno, Calif.

It was perhaps the country's most viewed celestial event ever, spreading the darkness of the moon's shadow across the homes of some 32 million people, including in major cities from Dallas to Cleveland and smaller communities such as Russellville, Ark., and Littleton, Maine. Millions more flocked into the 115-mile-wide path of totality, while the moon blocked at least half of the sun's face across most of the rest of the United States.

There were scientific experi-

SEE ECLIPSE ON A12



MADDIE MCGARVEY FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

People watch the eclipse at “Elope at the Eclipse” in Tiffin, Ohio, on Monday, where over 100 couples got married during totality. About 32 million people were in the path of totality.

From the air: Plane passengers hoped to get a unique view. A11

Photos: Images of the solar spectacle from around the nation. A12

## In face of Fla. restrictions, a clinic presses on

After the state restricted treatment for trans adults, Spektrum Health and its patients are on edge

BY CASEY PARKS

ORLANDO — Any day now, Joey Knoll told himself, he'd grab the bullhorn he kept at the edge of his desk, and he'd tell everyone at Spektrum Health that their year-long nightmare was over.

All of Knoll's patients had been on edge since the Florida legislature banned nurse practitioners like him from prescribing hormones to transgender people. Florida does not have nearly enough doctors to take up the slack, and so, for many patients, the care simply disappeared when the law took effect last May. A judge had the power to change that.

Knoll booted up his computer, and he listened as Lizzo's “2 B Loved (Am I Ready)” played in the hallways. Spektrum had al-



RESHMA KIRPALANI/THE WASHINGTON POST

Lana Dunn is the chief operating officer of Spektrum Health, a clinic in Orlando that largely serves the LGBTQ+ community.

ways been a fun clinic. People brought their pets to work, and Knoll, a 39-year-old gay man, sports a dyed blond mohawk. But the pop song echoed down empty hallways now, and Knoll knew his inbox would once again be filled with messages from desperate patients.

Nearly 150 were out of medicine, and others were nearing the end of their supply. Even Spektrum's chief operating officer, a trans woman, had just one refill left.

Without hormones, many had become depressed and anxious. Trans women were growing body and facial hair. Trans men said their periods had returned after a few missed doses. The state had turned on them, they said. Now, their bodies were turning on

SEE CLINIC ON A4

## Moscow trolls U.S. on Ukraine

SPIN DOCTORS STOKE ANTI-KIEV OPINIONS

Deceptive posts influence political debate in D.C.

BY CATHERINE BELTON  
AND JOSEPH MENN

When President Biden proposed an additional \$24 billion in supplemental funding for Ukraine in August, Moscow spin doctors working for the Kremlin were ready to try to undermine public support for the bill, internal Kremlin documents show.

In an ongoing campaign that seeks to influence congressional and other political debates to stoke anti-Ukraine sentiment, Kremlin-linked political strategists and trolls have written thousands of fabricated news articles, social media posts and comments that promote American isolationism, stir fear over the United States' border security and attempt to amplify U.S. economic and racial tensions, according to a trove of internal Kremlin documents obtained by a European intelligence service and reviewed by The Washington Post.

One of the political strategists, for instance, instructed a troll farm employee working for his firm to write a comment of “no more than 200 characters in the name of a resident of a suburb of a major city.” The strategist suggested that this fictitious American

SEE INTERFERENCE ON A7

## Biden tries new plan for student loan relief

Key feature would be forgiveness of \$20,000 in accrued interest

BY DANIELLE  
DOUGLAS-GABRIEL

President Biden on Monday laid out plans to forgive some or all student loans for more than 30 million Americans, trying to expand on his administration's work to reduce debt burdens but offering a narrower path for forgiveness than a plan struck down by the Supreme Court last year.

One far-reaching component would forgive up to \$20,000 in interest for federal student loan borrowers whose balances have ballooned because of unpaid interest, a move that the White House estimates could benefit 25 million people and that could take effect as soon as this fall. Other aspects of the debt plan, which probably will not be finalized for months, would take effect next summer.

“Today, too many Americans, especially young people, are saddled with unsustainable debts in exchange for [a] college degree,” Biden said at an event at a college

SEE STUDENT DEBT ON A9

### IN THE NEWS

**Trump's hush money case** The former president's first criminal trial, in New York, is set to begin next week. Here's what to know about the trial and any potential sentence. A2

**Virginia budget** Gov. Glenn Youngkin backed down on his plea for tax cuts as he proposed 233 amendments to the spending plan. B1

**THE NATION**  
**Speaker Mike Johnson's** job is on the line as the House returns. A17

**THE WORLD**  
**The U.S. treasury** secretary said the nation will not accept a flood of cheap Chinese goods. A10

**Gazans** are returning to Khan Younis, a southern city devastated beyond recognition. A14  
**A new Vatican** document states that “any sex-change intervention” is a risk to human dignity. A15

**THE ECONOMY**  
**Donald Trump's** social network lost \$58 million in 2023, but his stake is worth billions, and the company's leaders stand to make millions. A8  
**Elon Musk** said that X would defy an order by a Brazilian Supreme Court justice to block some accounts. A10

**THE REGION**  
**The Catholic** archbishop of Baltimore listened as six survivors of church sexual abuse shared their stories in court. B1  
**Surveillance efforts** at the District's new Real-Time Crime Center are key to the city's plans for curbing violence. B1

**STYLE**  
**Larry David's** “Curb Your Enthusiasm” ended with its hero doubling down — on the “Seinfeld” finale and on his own conduct. C1

**HEALTH & SCIENCE**  
**A life coach** explains how the power of envy can be harnessed without becoming toxic. E1

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The Washington Post  
Year 147, No. 53816

