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# The Washington Post

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Democracy Dies in Darkness

FRIDAY, JUNE 21, 2024 • \$5

## DNA test links rapist to 1996 Va. murders

Ohio man implicated in Shenandoah park killings died in prison in 2018

BY PETER HERMANN, PAUL DUGGAN AND GREGORY S. SCHNEIDER

RICHMOND — Federal authorities on Thursday announced that they now believe a convicted serial rapist from Ohio killed two female hikers nearly three decades ago at a secluded campsite in Shenandoah National Park in Virginia — a brutal attack that vexed authorities and haunted a community.

The news of a suspect in the murders of Julianne M. Williams, 24, and her partner, Laura S. “Lollie” Winans, 26, came after investigators said they decided to plow anew through old evidence. Aided by advances in DNA testing, they focused on a housepainter from the Cleveland area who frequented the popular, mountainous park 320 miles from his home city.

Authorities said they now believe that Walter “Leo” Jackson Sr., who died in an Ohio prison in 2018, bound Williams’ and Winans’ hands with duct tape, sexually assaulted them and slashed their throats. The killings frightened the LGBTQ+ community and raised fears that the women were slain in a hate crime.

“Make no mistake that this crime was brutal,” said Christopher Kavanaugh, the U.S. attorney for the Western District of Virginia. He said there is no evidence that the killings of the couple were motivated by hate bias, as authorities had initially believed.

Over the years, investigators eyed at least two other men, one of whom was charged with capital murder. After prosecutors dropped that case, court documents detailed evidence potentially linking the murders to a dead serial killer. He too has been ruled out.

“We now know who is responsible for this heinous crime,” said Stanley M. Meador, the special agent in charge of the FBI’s field office in Richmond, naming

SEE MURDERS ON A2



FBI

Julianne Williams, left, and Laura “Lollie” Winans in Shenandoah National Park.

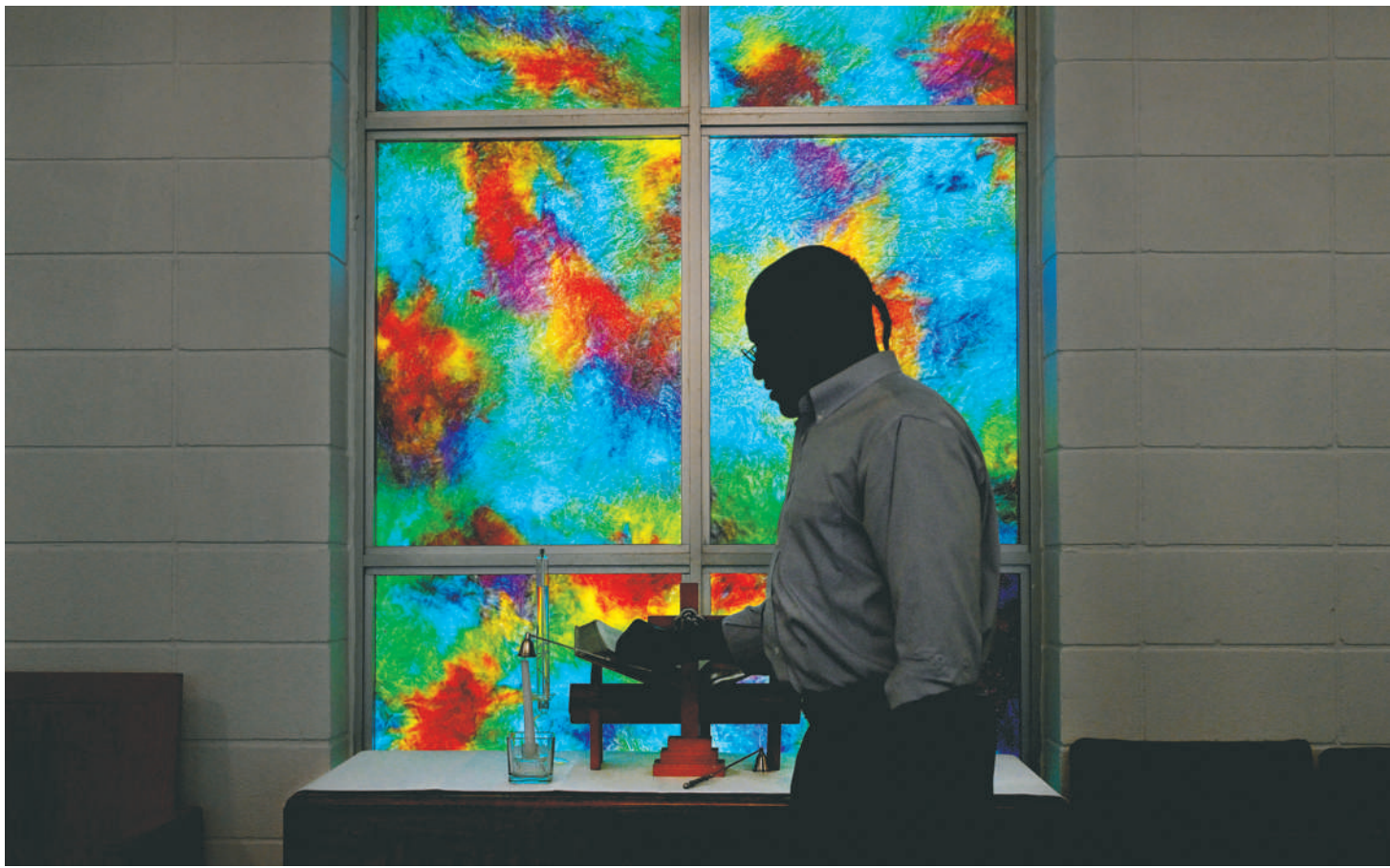


Michael Schwerner

James Chaney

Andrew Goodman

## In 1964, the Klan killed three young activists and shocked the nation



A town in Mississippi is still grappling with that violent civil rights history

Even in a decade marked by hatred and violence, what happened here on a sultry June night 60 years ago shocked the nation for its brazenness.

Amid Freedom Summer, a daring effort to register Black Mississippians to vote, three young civil rights workers came to town. It was a perilous time. Black churches were being torched throughout the South. Segregationists remained defiant.

As a young boy, James Young would watch his father lie on the living room floor, rifle at the ready, in case someone burst through the family’s door.

“The community would get information that the Klan is riding tonight, or they may be riding this

BY SUSAN LEVINE  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY  
MICHAEL S. WILLIAMSON  
IN PHILADELPHIA, MISS.

weekend,” Young recounted later in life. “So during those times, my father would be prepped.”

The three activists had arrived to check on the latest church burning. But before the sun rose the next morning, Mickey Schwerner, James Chaney and Andrew Goodman would all be dead, ambushed by the Ku Klux Klan as they were heading out of Neshoba County.

It took a massive FBI mobilization 44 days to find the brutalized bodies. It took years for even a modicum of justice.

The atrocity became a seminal

moment in the civil rights movement. Yet on the murders’ 60th anniversary, which is Friday, some people here worry that the country is forgetting what was learned along the way. Others wonder what the past is owed — and for how long. They talked with The Washington Post this spring about their community’s painful legacy of racism.

Philadelphia is a vastly different place today. For one, Young is now mayor, the city’s first African American leader.

“We have made strides to be better. I’m gonna put it just like that,” he says. “We ain’t perfect. But we have made strides to be better.”

SEE PHILADELPHIA ON A6

ABOVE: Pastor Eddie Hinton attends to the altar table at Mount Zion United Methodist Church in Philadelphia, Miss. “A message of healing is what I search for most of the time, a message of healing and a message of comfort,” he said of the town’s congregation, one of four that he serves.

DONALD SUTHERLAND 1935-2024

## ‘Shape-shifty’ movie stalwart did it all

After ‘M.A.S.H.’ breakthrough, he had five-decade career with 150-plus roles

BY ADAM BERNSTEIN

Donald Sutherland, an actor of breathtaking range who became one of the most compelling players in cinema, whether portraying a misfit combat surgeon, an inscrutable cop, a grieving father or a futuristic tyrant, died June 20 in Miami. He was 88.

His agency, CAA, announced the death but did not provide a specific cause.

With his lilting, velvety baritone and ghoulishly expressive features — gangly frame, promi-

nent ears, wolfish smile and chilling green eyes — Mr. Sutherland perhaps unsurprisingly began his movie career in horror films.

From there, he made a leap into eccentric parts in war films, as the dimmest of “The Dirty Dozen” (1967) and the aptly named Sgt. Oddball in “Kelly’s Heroes” (1970). His breakthrough came in 1970 heading the cast of “M.A.S.H.,” a raucous and absurdist antiwar comedy set in a mobile Army hospital. The film became a cultural phenomenon and cannonballed Mr. Sutherland to

fame as an intriguing new screen personality.

Film critic Peter Rainer described Mr. Sutherland as “remarkably shape-shifty,” and his more than 150 screen roles over five decades — notably “Klute” (1971), “Animal House” (1978), “Ordinary People” (1980), “Eye of the Needle” (1981), “Backdraft” (1991), “JFK” (1991), “Six Degrees of Separation” (1993) and “The Hunger Games” (2012) — made him one of the most versatile actors of his generation.

SEE SUTHERLAND ON A4



2017 PHOTO BY CHRIS PIZZELLO/INVISION/AP

Donald Sutherland starred in films including “Klute,” “Animal House,” “Ordinary People,” “JFK” and “The Hunger Games.”

## Tax on offshore gains is upheld

JUSTICES SAW RISK OF ‘FISCAL CALAMITY’

Some saw lawsuit as bid to preempt wealth tax

BY ANN E. MARIMOW AND JULIE ZAUZMER WEIL

The Supreme Court on Thursday rejected a challenge to an obscure provision of President Donald Trump’s 2017 tax package, ending a lawsuit that many experts feared could destabilize the nation’s tax system.

In a divided decision, the court upheld a one-time tax on offshore earnings that helped fund the massive tax cut, saying it was permitted under Congress’s limited powers of taxation.

Some viewed the lawsuit as an effort to preemptively block Congress from creating a wealth tax.

Writing for the majority, Justice Brett M. Kavanaugh said the challenge to the tax on offshore earnings could have rendered “vast swaths of the Internal Revenue Code unconstitutional.”

“Those tax provisions, if suddenly eliminated, would deprive the U.S. Government and the American people of trillions in lost tax revenue,” he wrote. The implications of the challengers’ argument, he added, would have required Congress to “either drastically cut critical national programs or significantly increase taxes on the remaining sources available to it — includ-

SEE TAX ON A14

## TikTok goes on offense in legal filing

A new brief calls Biden administration’s position ‘unmoored from reality’

BY DREW HARWELL

The Biden administration’s new law forcing the sale or ban of TikTok is the unconstitutional result of “political demagoguery” and should be overturned, TikTok attorneys said in a court brief Thursday marking the start of one of the most consequential legal battles in American internet history.

The briefs, filed by TikTok and a group of eight creators, largely reprise past arguments that a law demanding TikTok’s China-based owner, ByteDance, sell its U.S. operations by Jan. 19 or face a nationwide ban would violate Americans’ First Amendment right to free expression.

“Never before has Congress silenced so much speech in a single act,” TikTok’s brief said. The law “sets a dangerous precedent allowing the political branches to target a disfavored speech platform and force it to sell or be shut down.”

But TikTok also went on offense, sharing for the first time

SEE TIKTOK ON A14