

The Washington Post

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RE V1 V2 V3 V4



Sunny, breezy 86/67 • Tomorrow: Partly sunny 86/70 **B6**

Democracy Dies in Darkness

SATURDAY, JUNE 15, 2024 • **\$3**

High court rolls back bump stock device ban

Ruling says law barring civilians from machine guns doesn't apply

BY JUSTIN JOUVENAL
AND ANN E. MARIMOW

A divided Supreme Court on Friday struck down a federal ban on bump stock devices that allow semiautomatic rifles to fire hundreds of bullets a minute, upending one of the few recent efforts by the federal government to address the nation's epidemic of gun violence.

The 6-3 ruling along ideological lines continues the conservative majority's record of limiting gun restrictions, most notably in a landmark 2022 ruling that has made it easier to challenge modern gun control laws. Friday's ruling did not implicate the Second Amendment right to bear arms, but rather the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives' interpretation of a law restricting machine guns.

In its ruling, the majority said bump stocks do not qualify as machine guns under a 1986 law that barred civilians from owning new versions of the weapons. The Trump administration interpreted the law to ban bump stocks in 2018, after a gunman used the devices to open fire on a Las Vegas music festival, ultimately killing 60 people in the deadliest mass shooting in U.S. history.

In writing for the majority, Justice Clarence Thomas dove into technical aspects of the law and the mechanics of how the devices operate — including diagrams in his opinion — to explain the decision. The 1986 law defines machine guns as weapons that fire more than one shot “by a single function of the trigger.”

“With or without a bump stock, SEE COURT ON A4

Pope Francis warns G-7 leaders on perils of AI

BY ANTHONY FAIOLA,
CAT ZAKRZEWSKI
AND STEFANO PITRELLI

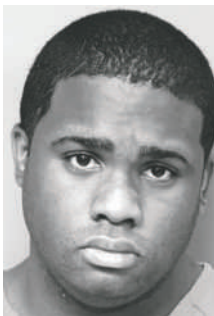
BARI, ITALY — Pope Francis is an octogenarian who says he cannot use a computer, but on a February afternoon in 2019, a top diplomat of American Big Tech entered the papal residence seeking guidance on the ethics of a gestating technology: artificial intelligence.

Microsoft President Brad Smith and the pope discussed the rapid development of the technology, Smith recounted in an interview with The Washington Post, and Francis appeared to grasp its risks. As Smith departed, the pope uttered a warning. “Keep your humanity,” he urged, as he held Smith's wrist.

In the five years since that meeting, AI has become unavoidable — as the pope himself found out last year when viral images of him in a Balenciaga puffer jacket

SEE POPE ON A2

Pope's got jokes: An array of comedians visited the Vatican. **C1**



Abused by the badge

A Washington Post investigation has found that hundreds of police officers in the United States have sexually abused children while officials at every level of the criminal justice system have failed to protect kids, punish abusers and prevent additional crimes. **A8**

99%

of arrested officers were male.

66%

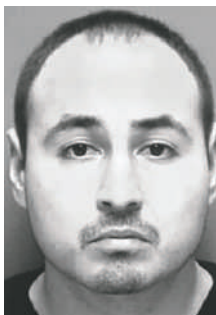
of arrested officers had more than five years of service.

47

were chiefs of police, top sheriffs or other agency heads.

Nearly 40%

of convicted officers were not sentenced to prison.



PHOTOS OBTAINED BY THE WASHINGTON POST

The world's top pickleball player approaches it like chess

With a cerebral strategy, Gaithersburg's Johns has dominated the burgeoning sport

BY MARK SELIG

The best pickleball player in the world considers himself equal parts jock and nerd.

His favorite hobby is “Magic: The Gathering,” a fantasy card game with sorcery and strategy.

Discussing the subtleties of pickleball, he will casually reference how a paddle's “coefficient of friction” yields spin on a ball.

And as for his on-court tactics, he turns to poker: “If I and my opponents both operate game-theory optimal, just based on skill, I should win, typically,” he says, citing a Texas hold 'em playing style and making clear that, in pickleball, he almost always has the best hand.

Ben Johns has conquered Chapter 1 of the professional game — emerging as its first superstar, establishing himself as its most influential pitchman, co-owning two companies and becoming a multimillionaire along the way. He has done so largely with his cerebrum.

During an hour-long

SEE PICKLEBALL ON A4



KEVIN D. LILES FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Ben Johns has 21 Triple Crowns — winning singles, doubles and mixed doubles titles in one weekend.

U.S. lends a hand in hunt for hostages

SHARED INTEL AIDS ISRAELI OPERATIONS

But also sparks concerns over the scope of its use

BY SHANE HARRIS

The daring and deadly hostage rescue that Israeli military forces mounted in Gaza last Saturday relied on a massive intelligence-gathering operation in which the United States has been Israel's most important partner.

Since the Hamas attacks of Oct. 7, the United States has ramped up intelligence collection on the militant group in Gaza and is sharing an extraordinary amount of drone footage, satellite imagery, communications intercepts and data analysis using advanced software, some of it powered by artificial intelligence, according to current and former U.S. and Israeli intelligence officials.

The result is an intelligence-sharing partnership of rare volume, even for two countries that have historically worked together on areas of mutual concern, including counterterrorism and preventing Iran from building a nuclear weapon.

In interviews, Israeli officials said they were grateful for the U.S. assistance, which in some cases has given the Israelis unique capabilities they lacked before Hamas's surprise cross-border attacks. But they also were defensive about their own spying prowess, insisting that the United States was, for the most part, not giving them anything they couldn't obtain themselves. That position can be hard to square with the obvious

SEE INTELLIGENCE ON A12

‘Unbearable’: Heat adds to woes of Gazans sheltering in tents. **A6**

Church's role in Indian schools noted in apology

BY SARI HORWITZ
AND DANA HEDGPETH

U.S. Catholic bishops issued a formal apology Friday morning for the church's role in inflicting a “history of trauma” on Native Americans, including at church-run Indian boarding schools where a Washington Post investigation published last month documented pervasive sexual abuse by priests.

The vote by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, which establishes policies and norms for the church in the United States, represents the most direct expression of regret to date by church officials for past participation in a systematic effort by the U.S. government to forcibly assimilate Native Americans into White society. By a 181-2 vote, the bishops approved a document called “Keeping Christ's Sacred Promise: A Pastoral Framework for Indigenous Ministry.” Three bishops abstained.

The document does not specify SEE BOARDING SCHOOLS ON A11

IN THE NEWS

From Silicon Valley to the pitch An India-born Oracle software engineer is bringing new fans to cricket as he leads the U.S. team's surprising run at the T20 World Cup. **A13**

Virginia policy battle Democratic leaders' varying approaches to addressing changes to a military tuition program hint at strife. **B1**

THE NATION
A federal judge blocked rules extending Title IX protections to transgender students. **A2**
The House passed a defense policy bill that targets abortion access and diversity programs. **A3**

THE WORLD
Russia demanded Kyiv surrender four regions and renounce its NATO bid to end the war. **A5**
The U.N. passed a resolution calling for a cease-fire in western Sudan's El Fashir city. **A6**

THE ECONOMY
A disinformation research group, the Stanford Internet Observatory, fizzles amid political and legal attacks **A14**
The FAA and European regulators are investigating reports of jets being manufactured with improperly documented titanium. **A14**

THE REGION
A new city park is set to open on one of the District's largest undeveloped plots of land amid decades of litigation. **B1**
The family of a transgender man killed by Fairfax police in 2022 filed a wrongful-death lawsuit. **B1**

STYLE
On Capitol Hill, the annual National Seersucker Day is no sweat for senators and staff members. **C1**

SPORTS
U.S. swimming trials start Saturday with hopes pinned on Paris and eyes fixed on Caeleb Dressel. **D1**

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OPINION PAGES.....A15
TELEVISION.....C3
WORLD NEWS.....A5

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