



## DA suggests month-long delay in Trump trial

Both sides seek time to review records before N.Y. hush money case

BY **DEVLIN BARRETT**  
AND **SHAYNA JACOBS**

New York prosecutors preparing for the expected March 25 start of Donald Trump's first criminal trial threw a wrench into that schedule Thursday by suggesting a 30-day delay, responding to complaints from the former president's lawyers that evidence had been unfairly withheld until the 11th hour.

Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg (D) notified the court that his office had just received "approximately 31,000" pages of additional records from federal prosecutors in New York, who previously investigated the 2016 hush money payments that are the basis of Bragg's charges against Trump.

"In light of the distinctive circumstances described below, the People do not oppose a brief adjournment of up to 30 days to permit sufficient time for defendant to review the" newly shared records, the filing said.

Trump's legal team has asked for a 90-day delay to review the evidence, and urged sanctions be imposed on prosecutors for allegedly not fulfilling their legal obligations. A spokesman for Trump said he and his legal team "have been consistent and steadfast that this case has no basis in law or fact, and should be dismissed."

SEE **TRUMP** ON **A4**

**Georgia case:** Race is an ever-present source of tension. **A6**

**Florida case:** Judge rejects Trump's attack on the Espionage Act. **A7**

## Divisive TikTok bill is destined for court

Debate smolders over whether forced sale or ban is constitutional

BY **DREW HARWELL**  
AND **EVA DOU**

The House's approval of a bill calling for the forced sale or ban of the video app TikTok in the United States could end up launching a legal battle over the long-running and politically polarizing question: Is such a government effort constitutional?

On Thursday, the only conclusion that seemed certain: The resolution will come in the courts.

The bill's overwhelming passage marked the first time a chamber of Congress has voted for the forced divestiture of a social media platform. TikTok, which is owned by the China-based tech giant ByteDance, is wildly popular, with 170 million users nationwide.

The legislation's opponents have said it would violate American users' First Amendment rights by taking away a platform they use for free expression.

SEE **TIKTOK** ON **A17**

**ABUSED BY THE BADGE**  
Hundreds of law enforcement officers have been accused of sexually abusing children over the past two decades, a Post investigation found



## A police officer took a teen for a rape kit. Then he assaulted her.

BY **JESSICA CONTRERA, JENN ABELSON AND JOHN D. HARDEN**  
PHOTOS BY **CAROLYN VAN HOUTEN**

The 14-year-old did not want to go to the emergency room. Her mother had begged her. Her therapist had gently prodded. And now there was a police officer in her living room.

"You really should think about it," he said.

He introduced himself as Officer Rodney Vicknair. His New Orleans Police Department cruiser was waiting outside, ready to take her to the hospital for a rape kit. Early that morning, the girl said, a 17-year-old friend had forced himself on her.

Under the police department's rules, a case like this was supposed to be handled from the start by a detective trained in sex crimes or child abuse. But on this afternoon in May of 2020, it was Vicknair, a patrol officer with a troubled past, who knocked on the girl's door.

He tried to coax her into changing her mind. "If I'm a young man that has done something wrong to a young lady and she doesn't follow up and press the issue," Vicknair said as his body camera recorded the

conversation, "then I'm gonna go out and do it to another young lady."

"And it's gonna be worse, maybe, the next time," Vicknair said, "because I'm gonna think in my head, 'Oh, I got the power. I can go further this time.'"

The girl didn't want that. She just wanted this to be over.

She didn't know it was only the beginning. Four months later, police would arrest a man for sexually assaulting the girl. But it wouldn't be her teenage friend. It would be Officer Rodney Vicknair.

The day the 14-year-old met 53-year-old Vicknair was the day the officer began a months-long grooming process, prosecutors would allege. Within hours of meeting the girl, Vicknair wrapped his arm around her while they took a selfie. He let her play with his police baton. He joked with her about "whipping your behind." He showed her multiple photos of a young woman dressed only in lingerie.

SEE **ABUSE** ON **A8**

**ABOVE:** A teen who was sexually abused by a New Orleans police officer.

## As homes shrink, first-time buyers may find their fit

Builders are going smaller to cut costs, a possible first step in mitigating the starter-home shortage

BY **ABHA BHATTARAI**

The new American home is shrinking.

After years of prioritizing large homes, the nation's biggest and most powerful home builders are finally building more smaller ones, driving a shift toward more affordable housing.

The boom in smaller construction has cut median new-home sizes by 4 percent in the past year, to 2,179 square feet, census data shows, the lowest reading since 2010. That's helped bring down overall costs and contributed to a 6 percent dip in new-home prices in the same period.

Townhouses, in particular, are increasingly popular, accounting for 1 in 5 new homes under construction at the end of 2023, a record high, according to an analysis of census data by the National Association of Home Builders. To cut costs, companies are building smaller and taller, according to a new report.

SEE **SMALL HOMES** ON **A16**



JULIA NIKHINSON FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

**Townhouses, like these in Frederick County, Va., accounted for a record-high 1 in 5 new homes under construction at the end of 2023, according to a National Association of Home Builders analysis.**

## Crisis reflects Israel's fissures

**HUNGER AND CHAOS ENGULF NORTH GAZA**

Officials blame failure to develop postwar strategy

BY **SHIRA RUBIN**  
AND **YASMEEN ABUTALEB**

TEL AVIV — For three months, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu publicly celebrated the fall of Hamas in northern Gaza, brushing aside warnings that severe food scarcity and a widening power vacuum were creating a state of anarchy.

But after a recent aid convoy disaster in Gaza City, and amid reports of Palestinian children dying of malnutrition, Netanyahu faces an international reckoning — under growing pressure from the United States to stave off a famine and restore order to the ravaged enclave. The crisis, current and former officials say, stems from Israel's failure to develop a workable postwar strategy, or to plan for the consequences of an open-ended military occupation.

Eran Etzion, former deputy chief of Israel's National Security Council, said the situation in northern Gaza highlights "the depths of the quagmire, the chaos and the inability to simply reinstate any kind of normalcy" after the conclusion of the most intensive stages of combat.

"Preventing famine is Israel's

SEE **GAZA** ON **A12**

**Schumer:** The Senate leader calls for a "new election" in Israel. **A12**

**West Bank:** In a first, U.S. imposes sanctions on Israeli outposts. **A14**

## \$75 to park and rooms for \$730 in arena plan

Analysis commissioned by Virginia calls project's financial forecasts rosy

BY **TEO ARMUS**  
AND **JONATHAN O'CONNELL**

A plan to build a sports arena in Northern Virginia depends on more than a billion dollars in taxes and fees generated at the facility to fund its construction — but those figures rely on some aggressive assumptions, including unprecedented prices for high-end hotels, according to an analysis commissioned by Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin's administration that has not been released to the public.

Youngkin (R) and other officials behind a proposal to move the Washington Capitals and Wizards to Alexandria have pitched it as a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity with a unique financing structure: Virginia would borrow \$1.5 billion from Wall Street and then use parking

SEE **ARENA** ON **A18**

**'Backward' budget:** Youngkin slams Democrats on taxes. **B1**

## IN THE NEWS

**Pregnancy-related deaths** The U.S. maternal mortality rate might be overestimated, remaining flat instead of more than doubling since 2002, a study found. **A18**

**Rebounds after covid** The D.C. area saw its most significant population growth since 2018 in the past year, outpacing other cities. **B1**

**THE NATION** **SpaceX** successfully launched its Starship spacecraft in its third flight test. **A2**  
**Oklahoma's** medical examiner ruled that the death of a nonbinary teenager was suicide. **A3**

**THE WORLD** **Vladimir Putin** is sure to be reelected, but his eye is on turnout and a big win. **A11**  
**U.S.-Hungarian** relations have reached a new low amid public rebukes on both sides. **A14**

**THE ECONOMY** **President Biden's** new economic strategy focuses on spurring development in specific downtrodden places. **A15**  
**The president's** opposition to a Japanese company's bid for U.S. Steel could upend ties between the two countries. **A17**

**THE REGION** **D.C.'s pollen** count soared to near-record levels with the arrival of abnormally warm weather. **B1**  
**As D.C. implements** its first drug-free zones, some are concerned police could abuse their additional authority in the areas. **B1**

**STYLE** **Christine Blasey Ford**, who in 2018 accused Brett M. Kavanaugh of sexual assault, details her ordeal in a new memoir. **C1**

**WEEKEND** **Causa and Raina** joined D.C.'s growing list of Michelin-star restaurants.

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