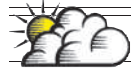


The Washington Post

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Partly sunny 91/71 • Tomorrow: Partly sunny 92/73 B6

Democracy Dies in Darkness

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19, 2024 • \$3

ELECTION 2024

Two GOP die-hards lock horns in Va.'s 5th

Incumbent in a tight race after snubbing Trump, making enemies in party

BY LAURA VOZZELLA
AND CHRIS SUAREZ

LYNCHBURG, VA. — House Freedom Caucus Chairman Bob Good was locked in a tight Republican primary in deep-red central Virginia late Tuesday with John J. McGuire III, a state senator whose bid to oust his fellow hard-liner drew support from former president Donald Trump and establishment forces.

The outcome in the rural 5th Congressional District hinges on whether a party that has driven many a moderate Never Trumper from elective office would do the same to a hard-right, 2020-election-denying incumbent such as Good, whose main quibble with the former president is that he is not conservative enough on abortion and guns.

The eventual nominee will go on to face Democrat Gloria Witt — the projected winner of her party's three-way primary Tuesday — in November's general election, which Republicans are heavily favored to win.

Other battlegrounds: Voters pick nominees in 7th, 10th districts. B1



MADELINE GRAY FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Lt. Gov. Mark Robinson is the Republican nominee for governor in North Carolina.

N.C. candidate downplayed claims against famous men

Robinson has often questioned credibility of women alleging assault

BY PATRICK SVITEK
AND MAEGAN VAZQUEZ

Mark Robinson, the firebrand Republican nominee for governor in North Carolina, has for years made comments downplaying and making light of sexual assault and domestic violence.

A review of Robinson's social media posts over the past decade shows that he frequently questioned the credibility of women who aired allegations of sexual assault against prominent men, including Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein, actor Bill Cosby and now-U.S. Supreme Court Justice Brett M. Kavanaugh. In one post, Robinson, North Carolina's lieutenant governor, characterized Weinstein and others as "sacrificial lambs" being "slaughtered."

Robinson also wrote repeatedly

SEE ROBINSON ON A8

WILLIE MAYS | 1931-2024



AP

Among game's stars, he shined brightest

With speed, power and panache, 'Say Hey Kid' staked a claim to being the greatest of all time

BY PAUL DUGGAN

Willie Mays, a perennial all-star center fielder for the New York and San Francisco Giants in the 1950s and '60s whose powerful bat, superb athletic grace and crafty baseball acumen earned him a place with Babe Ruth atop the game's roster of historic greats, died June 18. He was 93.

The San Francisco Giants announced his death on social media but did not provide other details. Mr. Mays was the oldest living member of the National Baseball Hall of Fame.

"If there was a guy born to play baseball," Boston Red Sox legend Ted Williams, one of his 1950s contemporaries, said late in life, "it was Willie Mays."

With such demigods as Jackie Robinson and Hank Aaron, Mr. Mays, from Jim Crow-era Ala-



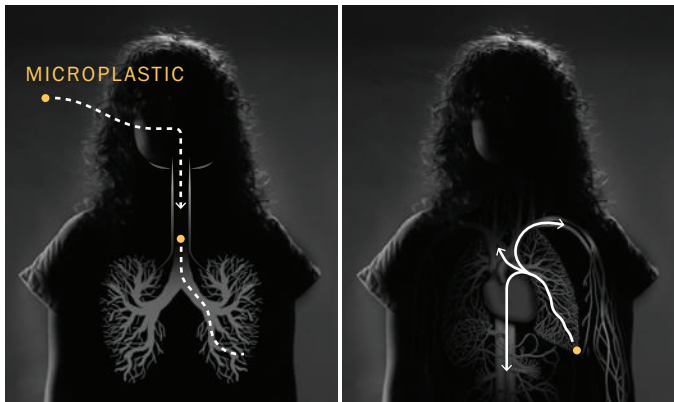
CHIP SOMODEVILLA/GETTY IMAGES

FROM TOP: Willie Mays of the New York Giants scores from second base against the Philadelphia Phillies at the Polo Grounds in Manhattan in 1952. President Barack Obama in 2015 presents the Presidential Medal of Freedom to Mr. Mays, who dominated the sport for years with his bat, glove, legs and throwing arm.

bama, was one of the earliest Black players to reach exalted heights in the formerly segregated major leagues. His body of work from 1951 to 1973 included 660 home runs — then the third most of all time — despite a nearly two-year absence for military service.

Baseball has had 150-plus players with higher career batting averages than Mr. Mays's. There have been swifter base runners and a few more-prolific sluggers over the decades. But Mr. Mays could do it all: The record book says no one showcased a more formidable combination of power, speed, arm strength, wizardry with a glove and steady hitting than No. 24 of the Giants, whom many regard as the best defensive center fielder ever.

SEE MAYS ON A6



Microplastics are infiltrating our organs, threatening our health

See how the tiny particles we inhale and ingest become entrenched in our bodies. **Story, A20**

Panel calls for obesity interventions

BY SABRINA MALHI

With obesity continuing to loom as a major public health threat, a leading panel of independent U.S. health experts released recommendations Tuesday urging doctors to refer children and teens with obesity to programs that can provide guidance on healthy eating, safe exercising and understanding food labels.

The guidelines from the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force apply to children and teenagers 6 and older with a body mass index — known as a BMI — in the 95th percentile. BMI is a calculation that estimates body fat based on weight and height. The recommendations are consistent with guidance from 2017, but the task force said it is going further,

Guidance goes beyond child screenings but does not include medication

moving from screening alone to implementing interventions.

Some physicians and obesity experts laud the efforts to address the rising crisis, but others say the task force should also consider medication interventions, including the use of a semaglutide drug, the increasingly popular class of weight-loss medications. The Food and Drug Administration approved use of the drug Wegovy in children 12 and older in 2022.

"Having the option of medication in the appropriate clinical

scenario is very important," said Susma Vaidya, an associate medical director at the IDEAL Clinic, the weight-loss program at Children's National Hospital in D.C. "I am a big believer in medication, and I think that we have been advocating for lifestyle change for a long time and haven't made a whole lot of progress."

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention categorizes 14.7 million children and teenagers ages 2 to 19 as obese. The agency estimates that children with obesity cost the United States more than \$1 billion in health spending annually.

Somourne K. Williams, 50, whose son, BJ, started a weight-loss drug in March 2023, said the tipping point for her was when

SEE OBESITY ON A4

Attack in Rafah winding down

OFFENSIVE NEARS ITS GOALS, ISRAELI SAYS

End of operation could mean new phase in war

BY STEVE HENDRIX
AND HAJAR HARB

JERUSALEM — Six weeks after it defied its allies and attacked Rafah, Israel is close to achieving its goals in the southern Gaza city it says was Hamas's final stronghold, according to Israeli officials and analysts, raising the possibility that months of major military operations might soon give way to a new, less-intense phase of the conflict.

A shift from the widespread ground and air attacks that have leveled much of the enclave and killed tens of thousands of people, according to Palestinian health officials, would represent a significant milestone in the war. It would offer a possible respite to civilians who have spent months in the line of fire, allow for more humanitarian aid and possibly jolt stalemated diplomatic efforts to reach a cease-fire deal and free Israeli hostages still held by Hamas.

A complete end to the war is not in sight. The Israel Defense Forces said it has destroyed most of Hamas's 24 battalions and has severely degraded three of the four remaining battalions in Rafah. But lone fighters and small groups are still launching rockets into Israel and targeting troops, even in areas of the Gaza Strip already largely under Israel's control.

On Saturday, eight Israeli soldiers were killed in Rafah when an explosion hit the armored personnel carrier they were traveling in, the IDF said. Hamas's armed wing, the Izzedine al-Qassam Brigades, said the attack was carried out with an antitank missile, calling it a "painful blow" to the Israeli military.

"And we have more," Qassam Brigades spokesman Abu Obaida said in a statement.

Israel has made clear it intends to keep some troops inside Gaza

SEE RAFAH ON A10

Demonstrations: Israeli police use force against protesters. A11

IN THE NEWS

Federal debt The Congressional Budget Office projected the total will hit \$50.7 trillion by 2034, up from \$34.7 trillion today, adding to the urgency facing lawmakers. A8

Majority support for DEI A poll found 6 in 10 Americans said that diversity, equity and inclusion programs are "a good thing." A15

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A parkour group damaged a historic building in Matera, Italy, while performing stunts. A12

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While Juneteenth marks the abolishment of slavery in Texas, forced labor persisted in the state for years thereafter. B1

SPORTS
Max Scherzer has never speculated about retirement. But when the pain wouldn't stop and the answers weren't coming, the former Nationals ace wondered. D1

FOOD
This summer, turn to your freezer for cool cocktails on demand. E1

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