



Airstrikes on a Gaza City Market
The U.S. dispatched to Israel its top military commander for the Middle East on Thursday, as attacks on Gaza continued. Page A6.

O.J. SIMPSON, 1947-2024

Football Star Whose Murder Trial Gripped Nation Riven by Race

By **ROBERT D. McFADDEN**

O.J. Simpson, who ran to fame on the football field, made fortunes as an all-American in movies, television and advertising, and was acquitted of killing his former wife and her friend in a 1995 trial in Los Angeles that mesmerized the nation, died on Wednesday at his home in Las Vegas. He was 76.

The cause was cancer, his family announced on social media.

The jury in the murder trial cleared him, but the case, which had held up a cracked mirror to Black and white America, changed the trajectory of his life. In 1997, a civil suit by the victims' families found him liable for the deaths of Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald L. Goldman, and ordered him to pay \$33.5 million in damages. He paid little of the debt, moved to Florida and struggled to remake his life, raise his children and stay out of trouble.

In 2006, he sold a book manuscript, titled "If I Did It," and a prospective TV interview, giving a "hypothetical" account of murders he had always denied committing. A public outcry ended both projects, but Mr. Goldman's family secured the book rights, added material imputing guilt to Mr. Simpson and had it published.

In 2007, he was arrested after he and other men invaded a Las Vegas hotel room of some sports memorabilia dealers and took a trove of collectibles. He claimed that the items had been stolen from him, but a jury in 2008 found him guilty of 12 charges, including

armed robbery and kidnapping, after a trial that drew only a smattering of reporters and spectators. He was sentenced to nine to 33 years in a Nevada state prison. He served the minimum term and was released in 2017.

Over the years, the story of O.J.

Simpson generated a tide of tell-all books, movies, studies and debate over questions of justice, race relations and celebrity in a nation that adores its heroes, especially those cast in rags-to-riches stereotypes, but that has never been

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O.J. Simpson after his acquittal in 1995. Later, in a civil suit, he was found liable for the two deaths.

Officials Say Ohtani Aide Stole \$16 Million for Gambling Debts

By **TIM ARANGO** and **MICHAEL S. SCHMIDT**

LOS ANGELES — Federal prosecutors said on Thursday that Shohei Ohtani had been the victim of a "fraud on a massive scale," releasing a detailed complaint that claimed Ipeei Mizuhara, the baseball star's former interpreter, exploited his access and the fact that Ohtani did not speak English to steal \$16 million from him to feed his gambling addiction.

The account provided by the authorities largely confirms what Ohtani told the public in late March, shortly after reports first surfaced that \$4.5 million had been transferred from Ohtani's account to Mizuhara. At that time, Ohtani explained how he believed Mizuhara had stolen money from him and that he did not bet on sports himself.

And authorities acknowledged that the speed at which the investigation proceeded — the allegations against Mizuhara surfaced only three weeks ago — was partly because of the desire to avoid having American sports tarred by the implication of a possible gambling scandal involving one of its biggest stars.

"I want to emphasize this point," said E. Martin Estrada, the U.S. attorney for the Central District of California. "Mr. Ohtani is considered a victim in this case."

The case is a very public example of the fine line sports leagues are walking in regard to sports gambling. Professional leagues resisted any association with gambling for decades, but that has changed since a Supreme Court

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A Battle for the White House, Fought With Beading and Silk

There were cherry blossoms. There were silk and glass butterflies. There were toasts. There was an entree inspired by a California roll, and a performance by Paul Simon. But before that, there was the photo op, and the fashion.

On Wednesday evening, as the Bidens hosted Prime Minister Fumio Kishida of Japan and his wife, Yuko Kishida, at the fifth state dinner of the Biden administration, Jill Biden, wearing an evening dress from Oscar de la Renta, stood with her husband to greet their guests of honor at the North Portico.

Designed by Fernando Garcia and Laura Kim, the dress flowed in a watery fade from sapphire

blue to light silver and was covered in hand-embroidered floral geometric beading.

Why did it matter? It wasn't as symbolically obvious as the cherry blossom print gown worn by Naomi Biden or Hillary Clinton's heavy silk caftan, but in opting for de la Renta, the first lady was not simply supporting an American company that represents the melting pot myth of the country. She was connecting to a longstanding relationship: Oscar de la Renta has dressed almost every first lady since Jackie Kennedy; Dr. Biden first wore the label for her inaugural state dinner in 2022.

On a night meant to underscore another powerful relationship — that of the United States and Japan — and reaffirm the

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Democrats Try To Use Jan. 6 As a Rally Cry

Running on a Platform to 'Save Democracy'

By **JONATHAN WEISMAN**

Harry Dunn, a former Capitol Police officer whose pitched battles with former President Donald J. Trump's supporters on and after Jan. 6, 2021, vaulted him to political stardom, was greeted Tuesday evening in Annapolis, Md., like a celebrity.

But there was also an undercurrent of skepticism among attendees at the Beacon Waterfront Restaurant, where he appeared at a campaign event to bolster his candidacy for the U.S. House.

"We have a person here with a proven legislative record," Jessica Sunshine, an Annapolis Democrat, told Mr. Dunn, referring to State Senator Sarah Elfreth, his main opponent in next month's Democratic primary. But, she added, "You have heart."

But Mr. Dunn, an imposing former offensive lineman who stands 6-foot-7-inches and 325 pounds, didn't shy away from the reason he is running: to save what he sees as democracy on the edge. "This moment, right now? It calls for a fighter," he said.

He is not the only one making that case to Democrats.

Over the next three months, primaries in three Mid-Atlantic House districts — from the exurbs of Washington, D.C., to Harrisburg, Pa. — will test the strength of Jan. 6 memories and whether the battle cry of "save democracy" will be enough even for Democratic voters who have many other concerns.

For many voters, partisan celebrity is virtually the only factor in their support for candidates like Mr. Dunn, who played a starring role in the Jan. 6 hearings, and Yevgeny Vindman, who goes by Eugene and along with his identical twin brother, Alexander, played a key role in highlighting Mr. Trump's effort to strong-arm Ukraine into digging up dirt on Joseph R. Biden Jr.

Margaret Pepin, 71, could hardly believe it when Mr. Vindman rang her video doorbell on Tuesday afternoon in Occoquan, Va., and his unmistakable face, made famous during Mr. Trump's first impeachment, popped on her security screen. "I looked at my Ring. I said, 'Is it really him?'" she said, acknowledging that she might have confused him for his better-known twin brother. "I am thrilled."

The celebrity-candidate factor has allowed the "save democracy" candidates to raise so much money nationally that these less-experienced Democrats will dominate the airwaves. But with issues like abortion, guns, inflation

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A.T.F. RULE SEEKS END TO LOOPHOLE IN FIREARM SALES

UNREGULATED DEALERS

Gun Show Sellers Must Check Background of Potential Buyers

By **GLENN THRUSH** and **ERICA L. GREEN**

The Biden administration has approved the broadest expansion of federal background checks in decades in an attempt to regulate a fast-growing shadow market of weapons sold online, at gun shows and through private sellers that has contributed to gun violence.

Under a rule released on Thursday, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives will require anyone "engaged in the business" of selling guns at a profit to register as a federally licensed firearms dealer. That means those sellers must run background criminal and mental health checks on potential buyers.

The new regulation, which is likely to face legal challenges,



More dealers would have to be registered with the A.T.F.

could add as many as 23,000 federal dealers to the 80,000 already regulated by A.T.F., an underfunded division of the Justice Department that already struggles to monitor sellers.

The rule, which drew more than 380,000 public comments, will take effect in a month.

President Biden, repeatedly blocked from enacting universal background checks by Republicans in Congress, is leveraging a provision of the sweeping bipartisan gun control law passed in 2022 to achieve an elusive policy goal that enjoys widespread public support: closing the so-called gun show loophole.

Expanding the number of federal firearms licensees was one of several gun control measures included in an executive order Mr. Biden issued in March 2023 after several mass shootings.

Vice President Kamala Harris,

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NATIONAL A12-21

Riding Rage to Internet Fame

Jackson Hinkle's incendiary online commentary about Israel has been amplified by inauthentic accounts, some researchers say. PAGE A17

Makeshift Refuge for Migrants

A campsite run by a 22-year-old volunteer became a first stop for people seeking shelter as they waited to be detained by border agents. PAGE A12

A Gold Medal for the Rosies

American women who filled a crucial labor shortage at home during World War II, reshaping the work force, were honored at the Capitol. PAGE A14

INTERNATIONAL A4-11

Ukraine's Military Draft Law

The bill passed by Parliament includes incentives for volunteers and new penalties for evading service. PAGE A8

Dinner in Ancient Pompeii

Archaeologists at Pompeii unveiled their latest find on Thursday: a formal dining room adorned in fresco. PAGE A11



BUSINESS B1-6

NPR Faces Accusation of Bias

A senior editor publicly criticized what he said was a litany of journalistic missteps by the broadcaster, igniting a firestorm of attacks. PAGE B1

Offering Safety and Discretion

Executive protection specialists who protect prominent people need more than just physical skills. PAGE B1

OBITUARIES B11-12

Comic Book Trailblazer

A pioneer in a male-dominated field, Tina Robbins, 85, also documented the contributions of other women. PAGE B12

WEEKEND ARTS C1-14

City Sounding Boards

A percussion group decided to perform in New York locations that possess very idiosyncratic acoustics. PAGE C4

A New Tune for Young Misfits

A musical version of "The Outsiders," the coming-of-age novel by S.E. Hinton, has opened on Broadway. PAGE C1



SPORTS B7-10

The Free-Ticket Experiment

A Paris soccer team's \$0 admission policy has attracted more, and younger, fans to its games. PAGE B7

Lots of Data, Few Answers

Weighing the factors in the rash of injuries to major league pitchers is a worthy, unrewarding exercise. PAGE B9

OPINION A24-25

Dan Coats

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