



T-storm 86/74 • Tomorrow: T-storm 86/76 **B20**

Democracy Dies in Darkness

FRIDAY, JULY 18, 2025 • \$4

In deadly raid, DOJ eyes 1-day sentence

Officer was found guilty in police action tied to Breonna Taylor’s killing

BY PERRY STEIN AND DAVID NAKAMURA

The Justice Department requested that a Louisville police officer convicted in connection with a raid that resulted in Breonna Taylor’s death be sentenced to one day in prison.

The federal government suggested in an unusual sentencing memo to a judge late Wednesday night that the Biden administration should not have prosecuted the officer on the civil rights charges on which he was convicted.

Breaking with standard protocol, the memo was not signed by any career prosecutors but by Robert J. Keenan, a senior counsel to the civil rights division who was not part of the original prosecution team, and Harmeet Dhillon, the head of the division who was appointed under the Trump administration.

In November, a federal jury found Brett Hankison, the Louisville police officer, guilty of violating Taylor’s civil rights during a March 2020 police raid in which she was fatally shot, becoming the first officer directly involved in the case to be convicted on criminal charges.

Hankison faces a maximum sentence of life in prison. The judge overseeing the case — U.S. District Judge Rebecca Grady Jennings, who was appointed by President Donald Trump during his first administration — will consider the government’s request. A sentencing hearing is set

SEE TAYLOR ON A7

Md. graves of 100 Black children are rediscovered

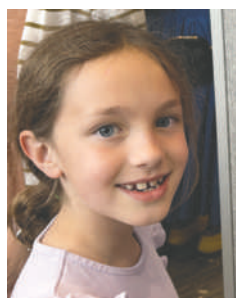
BY KATIE METTLER

At the base of a towering tree in an overgrown Maryland forest, the gravestone of William Jones has been pushed sideways by roots and earth in the 138 years since he was buried there.

Jones, a Black boy from Baltimore, was 17 in 1887 when he is believed to have died while imprisoned at what was then the House of Reformation and Instruction for Colored Children. The facility — now called the Cheltenham Youth Detention Center — is still located across a winding road from his resting place. Another 100 mossy graves believed to belong to more Black children sit nearby, their weathered tombstones sinking into the forest floor beneath leaves and branches.

For more than a century, their stories have been lost and their graves left to deteriorate, despite records that show state officials have been aware of the segregated cemetery since at least the 1970s. There is no sign marking it, no memorial acknowledging what happened here, no groundskeeper to sweep away the brush and the bramble. There are no flowers left by family, because there are no headstones, just rows and rows of unmarked cinder blocks that

SEE GRAVES ON A9



Young lives and big dreams, swept away

Families of the children lost in devastating flooding in Central Texas this month have spent the past 12 days planning and holding funerals, with more still to come. Amid their grief, relatives have sought to celebrate what made the children special — and hinted at the young adults they might have one day become. **Story, A10-11**

China uses hacking-for-hire approach to expand U.S. attacks

BY JOSEPH MENN

Undeterred by recent indictments alleging widespread cyberespionage against American agencies, journalists and infrastructure targets, Chinese hackers are hitting a wider range of targets and battling harder to stay inside once detected, seven current and former U.S. officials said in interviews.

Hacks from suspected Chinese government actors detected by the security firm CrowdStrike more than doubled from 2023 to more than 330 last year and continued to climb as the new administration took over, the company

American officials say Beijing has become more aggressive with breaches

said. Bursts of espionage are typical with each new president, the officials said, and major staff cuts at the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) have disrupted some response coordination.

“The U.S. is absolutely facing the most serious Chinese hacking ever. We are in China’s golden age

of hacking,” said China expert Dakota Cary of the security company SentinelOne.

Although the various Chinese hacking campaigns seem to be led by different government agencies and have different goals, all benefit from new techniques and from Beijing’s introduction of a less constrained system for cyber offense, the officials and outside researchers told The Washington Post. Some of them spoke on the condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the matter.

Chinese intelligence, military and security agencies previously selected targets and tasked their own employees with breaking in,

they said. But the Chinese government decided to take a more aggressive approach by allowing private industry to conduct cyberattacks and hacking campaigns on their own, U.S. officials said.

The companies are recruiting top hackers who discover previously unknown, or “zero-day,” flaws in software widely used in the United States. Then the companies search for where the vulnerable programs are installed, hack a great many of them at once, and then sell access to multiple Chinese government customers and other security companies.

SEE HACKING ON A20

Thousands here legally since 1999 have 60 days to leave

Hondurans, Nicaraguans stand to lose legal status as Trump administration seeks to end protections

BY LAUREN KAORI GURLEY

They are nurses, mechanics, sanitation workers and executives. They’ve fallen in love, bought houses and raised children. They’ve opened restaurants and construction companies, paid taxes and contributed to Social Security, living and working legally in the United States since 1999.

Now more than 50,000 Hondurans and Nicaraguans stand to abruptly lose their legal status as the Trump administration seeks to end their protections, in place since the Clinton era, under the temporary protected status program, or TPS. Amid a broader campaign to crack down on immigration, the Department of Homeland Security said that because “conditions have improved” in Honduras and Nicaragua, it is ending the program for natives of those countries in early September.

SEE PROTECTIONS ON A15

Revoked citizenship: Discussed in the U.S., on the rise globally. **A14**



CAROLYN FONG/FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Jhony Silva, 29, who came to the U.S. as a toddler in 1998, is suing the Trump administration.

Brazil judge in Trump’s sights

POSSIBLE SANCTIONS AHEAD OF BIG TRIAL

President claims case on Bolsonaro a ‘witch hunt’

BY TERRENCE MCCOY

RIO DE JANEIRO — A son of former Brazilian president Jair Bolsonaro is working closely with the White House to impose sanctions on a Brazilian Supreme Court justice set to preside over his father’s upcoming trial on charges of leading an attempted coup, four people familiar with the situation told The Washington Post.

If implemented, the sanctions against Supreme Federal Court Justice Alexandre de Moraes would dramatically escalate a diplomatic feud between the Western Hemisphere’s two most populous nations — which erupted last week after Trump announced plans for a 50 percent tariff on products from Brazil, citing the country’s “witch hunt” against Bolsonaro.

Now, his son Eduardo Bolsonaro, a federal congressman in Brazil, is pushing Trump to go further. In a video filmed outside the White House and posted to social media Wednesday, Eduardo Bolsonaro said he had just concluded a round of meetings with U.S. officials.

“Things are happening at this exact moment,” he said, referring to sanctions against Moraes. “Decisions are being made.”

Standing next to him in the

SEE SANCTIONS ON A14

Chronic illness: President makes rare admission of health issues. **A6**

Democrats unscripted: Blunter tone, more cursing

BY HANNAH KNOWLES AND LYDIA SIDHOM

The Democratic National Committee’s social media team kicked off its retreat early this year with a blunt message: People were slamming their work, which sometimes failed to connect with the party’s angry voters.

So, the team shortened its approval process for social media posts, encouraging members not to overthink them. They used the f-word on the party’s main X account. And when erstwhile Trump ally Elon Musk suggested without evidence that President Donald Trump was entangled in the infamous Jeffrey Epstein sex trafficking case, the DNC gleefully piled on: “RELEASE THE EPSTEIN FILES!”

“Every day the Trump administration, Republicans in Congress, they’re doing something cruel and corrupt and absurd, and they deserve mockery,” said Tim Hogan, who leads the DNC’s war room. “The strategy is not to have someone who needs to read a 40-page deck and calibrate before posting, but just go out

SEE DEMOCRATS ON A4

Analysis: 175,000 Marylanders stand to lose health coverage. **B13**

IN THE NEWS

‘Good trouble’ To mark the fifth anniversary of the death of Rep. John Lewis, people demonstrated across the nation, including in D.C. using umbrellas as signs. **A5** and **B13**

Jeanine Pirro The former Fox News host is a step closer to becoming D.C.’s U.S. attorney after clearing a Senate committee vote. **B13**

THE NATION Senate Republicans voted to advance Emil Bove’s controversial judicial nomination. **A5** The House passed the first major piece of legislation to regulate cryptocurrencies. **A9**

THE WORLD Amid unrest in Syria, Druze in Israel seized a chance to cross the border and see family. **A12** A new Russian law will punish web users for simply searching for forbidden content. **A13**

THE ECONOMY Researchers are using AI to peer-review their papers — and embedding prompts to receive positive feedback. **A16** Partnerships between Big Pharma and telehealth companies may lead to improper prescribing, according to a probe by senators. **A20**

STYLE A war-zone documentary is at the center of a lawsuit claiming negligence in the killing of an Afghan man. **B1**

SPORTS NFLPA executive director Lloyd Howell resigns after two years amid scrutiny and unrest among players. **B7**

THE REGION Millard House II, the former schools superintendent for Prince George’s, received about \$730,000 in salary as part of his separation agreement. **B13**

WEEKEND Post readers give us a hand in selecting the area’s best sandwiches.

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