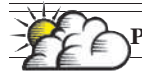


The Washington Post

Prices may vary in areas outside metropolitan Washington.

SU V1 V2 V3 V4



Partly sunny 83/66 • Tomorrow: Partly sunny 86/68 B24

Democracy Dies in Darkness

SUNDAY, AUGUST 3, 2025 • \$6

Gaza's destruction, as seldom seen



HEIDI LEVINE/FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

A section of Gaza City, seen Wednesday from a Jordanian Air Force plane during aid airdrops, conveys a rare view of a devastating war, including — as seen in this cropped version of a panorama — destruction wrought upon schools. Most views from above have come via satellite imagery, the Israeli military and drones. **Story and entire panorama, A12-13**

Vast supplies of U.S. aid are stranded and expiring

BY ANNIE GOWEN

"DESTROY" stickers were affixed this week to hundreds of cases of U.S.-branded food aid — 15,000 pounds' worth — that have languished for months in a Georgia warehouse and then expired before they could be sent overseas to famine-stricken areas like Sudan.

And Mana Nutrition's warehouse holds plenty more of the peanut paste, a crucial element in treating malnutrition. A \$50 million supply has been stacked for months in the nonprofit's facility in Pooler, a short drive from Savannah, caught in the chaos as the Trump administration upended

foreign aid and never shipped. The food could still help 60 million people, Mana estimates.

"This is a giant glut," chief operating officer David Todd Harmon said. "All contracted. All bought and paid for. It's just not been picked up."

A State Department memo in late May signaled that more than 60,000 metric tons of commodities were sitting in warehouses in the United States and around the world and that an "urgent" plan would begin to shift some of it. The logjam followed the Trump administration's breakneck dismantling of the U.S. Agency for International Development, slashing more than 80 percent of its pro-

Over 60,000 metric tons are in warehouses rather than global crisis zones

gramming and laying off all but a tiny fraction of its staffers. The agency's doors officially closed July 1.

Those cuts deeply disrupted a once-robust pipeline that funneled more than \$1 billion in commodities and nutritional supplements to crisis zones globally.

Mana's decision to jettison part of its food cache was the third instance in recent weeks in which

important nutrition and family planning assistance slated for overseas was marked for destruction. Lawmakers on Capitol Hill, aid groups and activists have voiced outrage, with Sen. Jeanne Shaheen of New Hampshire, the ranking Democrat on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, calling the situation "indefensible."

"These commodities were purchased by U.S. taxpayers to save lives — not to sit in warehouses or be incinerated," Shaheen said in a statement.

The State Department memo, obtained by The Washington Post, noted that senior official Jeremy

SEE AID ON A11

A job quake, and Trump aftershock

BLS FIRING FEARED TO RAISE ECONOMIC RISK

Move may undermine investor trust in crucial data

BY DAVID J. LYNCH AND ABHA BHATTARAI

For months, the U.S. economy appeared to be weathering the disruptive effects of President Donald Trump's trade and immigration policies.

But over the course of 72 hours, that sunny outlook darkened, as the latest government data last week showed the president's revolutionary remaking of the world's largest economy had hit a snag.

Friday's disappointing jobs report revealed a labor market that is much weaker than either the White House or Federal Reserve understood. Inflation, the voter irritant that helped return Trump to the Oval Office, is proving

newly stubborn. And consumers are growing more cautious with their spending.

After campaigning on a pledge to free business from worrying about Washington's dictates, Trump has made public policy — and his own norm-busting behavior — the primary variables affecting the \$30 trillion U.S. economy, economists said.

It all adds up to an economy that grew at an annual rate of 1.2 percent over the first half of the year, a notable downshift from its 2.4 percent pace at the end of 2024. The S&P 500 index, which has been on a tear since mid-April, reacted by shedding 2.5 percent of its value last week.

"We're seeing dramatic changes

SEE ECONOMY ON A24

Palantir is winning big in Trump's Washington

Company is benefiting from his tech-driven, cost-cutting ethos

BY ELIZABETH DWOSKIN, HANNAH NATANSON AND JACOB BOGAGE

Elon Musk has left government, but another Silicon Valley player is making its mark in President Donald Trump's Washington: Palantir.

The software and data analytics company has garnered at least \$300 million in new and expanded business since Trump took office for his second term, helping to make it the S&P's top performing stock of 2025. That includes contracts at the Federal Aviation Administration and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, as well as Fannie Mae, according to federal records.

Beyond that, the company is potentially set to earn an order of magnitude more in federal funds. In May, Pentagon leaders allocat-

ed up to \$795 million more to the military's core artificial intelligence software program, the Palantir-built Maven Smart System, to expand its deployment to all U.S. forces around the world. And late Thursday the Army issued Palantir the company's biggest contract — an agreement to consolidate the military's software procurement over the next decade — at a cost of up to \$10 billion.

At the State Department, a Palantir-designed AI system is now helping to write some diplomatic cables in a new pilot program, according to an internal State Department email obtained by The Washington Post. At the Department of Homeland Security, immigration officials reversed earlier plans to ditch some of the company's services when their superiors awarded Palantir a \$30 million contract this spring to track immigration enforcement. And at the Internal Revenue Service, an official with Musk's U.S. DOGE Service tapped Palantir to expand an internal project to modernize the agency's data. The contracts were confirmed by five

SEE PALANTIR ON A10

Convicted priest's return to work poses test for Pope Leo

Cleric who possessed child pornography is reinstated to 'desk job'

BY ANTHONY FAIOLA AND STEFANO PITRELLI

VATICAN CITY — He was the personification of shame in the Vatican, the lone prisoner in the three-cell jail of the world's smallest sovereign state. Now, the Rev. Carlo Alberto Capella — convicted of possessing and distributing a "large quantity" of child pornography while serving as a Vatican diplomat in Washington — is presenting Pope Leo XIV, the new American pontiff, with one of the first challenges of his papacy.

Capella, a 58-year-old Italian priest, was investigated by U.S. and Canadian authorities for almost two years for gathering and sharing child pornography while a senior diplomat at the Holy See's embassy in Washington. In 2017, the U.S. State Department asked the Vatican to waive his

diplomatic immunity, a request it denied. Instead, Capella was recalled to Rome, where he admitted to tracking down "repugnant" images and, in a rare Vatican criminal trial a year later, was found guilty and sentenced to five years in prison.

In recent weeks, reports have emerged on Catholic blogs of his 2022 release and quiet return to work at the Holy See's Secretariat of State. His restoration to the powerful department has outraged advocates for the survivors of abuse by Catholic clerics. They insist that even though he was never accused of sexual abuse, a convicted priest who consumed child pornography has no place in a prominent Vatican office.

"Why not give him a job scrubbing floors, or bathrooms, at the Vatican," said Peter Isely, a member of the Survivors Network of Those Abused by Priests, known as SNAP. "Why is he still an official member of the state department? It's wrong on every level."

As Pope Leo is confronted with demands to act, he becomes the

SEE PRIEST ON A24



NATHAN HOWARD/FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

At play in the bay

Tamanend's bottlenose dolphins swim past a Potomac-Chesapeake Dolphin Project research boat in the Chesapeake Bay in July. Hundreds of the dolphins make their home in the bay and the Potomac River, and scientists are studying their behavior. **Story, B17**

2020 election prosecutor Jack Smith faces inquiry

BY MAEGAN VAZQUEZ AND MERYL KORNFIELD

The U.S. Office of Special Counsel said Saturday it is taking the unusual step of investigating Jack Smith, the former Justice Department official who oversaw two federal prosecutions of Donald Trump, for potentially violating the law barring federal officials from political activity.

The independent agency tasked with overseeing investigations into partisan influence and coercion confirmed its investigation of Smith over potential Hatch Act violations.

The Hatch Act prohibits most federal employees from using their official authority to influence elections or engage in overt political activity on the job. If the office concludes a federal employee has violated the law, it refers the case to the president. Discipline can range from a reprimand to a

SEE SMITH ON A8

SPORTS

In football-mad Ohio, a camp focused on social justice keeps going. **B1**

BUSINESS

Matcha has exploded in popularity, and supply can't keep up. **B9**



ARTS & STYLE

Designer Marc Jacobs's anti-politics, from faux nails to creative liberty.

METRO

Three top officials are fired after a Md. juvenile justice system audit. **B17**



TRAVEL

The beer spa wellness trend allows you to take a sip and a dip.

BOOK WORLD

In "Black Genius," Tre Johnson celebrates joy and resilience.

\$191

SUNDAY COUPON INSERTS

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