



CONGRESS

Senate committee votes to hold Fauci in contempt of Congress

Count falls along party-lines with Paul leading charge

By **STEPHEN DINAN**

THE WASHINGTON TIMES

A Senate committee voted Thursday to hold Dr. Anthony Fauci in criminal contempt of Congress for refusing to answer senators' questions about his decisions and actions during the pandemic.

The 8-5 party-line vote is a stain on the once-pristine reputation of Dr. Fauci, who for decades ran the infectious diseases division at the National Institutes of Health and became the most visible face of U.S. efforts to grapple with COVID-19.

In a hearing last week, Dr. Fauci refused to answer any questions, invoking his Fifth Amendment

right to remain silent 111 times.

Republicans said that was unacceptable. They characterized Thursday's vote not as punishment but rather justice as they seek answers on the pandemic's origins and the government's decisions to push masks, shutdowns and vaccines.

"Many of these questions can be answered only by Dr. Fauci," said Sen. Rand Paul, chair of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee and a trained physician who for years has clashed with Dr. Fauci over his pandemic determinations.

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FIFTH AMENDMENT RIGHT: Dr. Anthony Fauci invoked his right to remain silent 111 times during a hearing last week. On Thursday, Republicans on a committee voted to hold him in contempt.

WHITE HOUSE

Trump signs executive order to ban 'birth tourism'

White House tests latitude
left by Supreme Court

By **STEPHEN DINAN**

THE WASHINGTON TIMES

President Trump signed an executive order Thursday banning the practice of "birth tourism" and ordering his administration to try to root out firms that assist pregnant women in entering the U.S. just to earn citizenship for their children.

He also signed another order directing his administration not to recognize the children of birth tourism as citizens. That order also denies birth-right citizenship to children whose parents work for a foreign government or whose parents are part of a terrorist organization.

The White House said it is trying to use some of the wiggle room left by the Supreme Court in its ruling in June, when it struck down Mr. Trump's previous birthright citizenship restrictions as unconstitutional. "We're making adjustments," Mr. Trump said in the Oval Office.

Mr. Trump's earlier effort tried to deny automatic citizenship to children born to illegal immigrants and temporary visitors. The Supreme Court shot him down, saying both of those categories are protected by the Constitution's 14th Amendment, which grants citizenship to all children born on U.S. soil who fall under the jurisdiction of the government.

The justices said there are only a few exceptions to that general rule. One exception is children of foreign diplomats because their parents aren't under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Another exception is children born to an occupying army.

Mr. Trump, in his new order, expanded the pool

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'ADJUSTMENTS'

President Trump signed an order banning "birth tourism" on Thursday.

MIDDLE EAST

Irate Trump blasts claims of low munitions

Vows to prosecute those
who informed the media

By **VAUGHN COCKAYNE AND TOM HOWELL JR.**

THE WASHINGTON TIMES

The White House lashed out Thursday against "leakers" who said the U.S. is running short on munitions, hoping to maintain pressure on Iran as it negotiates the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz.

Mr. Trump vowed to prosecute individuals who told the media that the U.S. military had exhausted nearly all its highly accurate long-range missiles during the five-month war with Iran.

"The U.S. has massive amounts of 'munitions,' especially of certain types. Additionally, large amounts are being manufactured and shipped to the U.S. as needed," Mr. Trump said on social media. "Defense companies are building the largest number of plants and factories in our country's history."

Mr. Trump projected strength while the U.S. sizes up an emerging deal between Iran and Oman that would regulate how ships transit the Strait of Hormuz, an oil chokepoint at the heart of negotiations to end the U.S.-Iran war.

The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps-affiliated Fars News Agency reported Thursday that the pending agreement between Oman and Iran would include a temporary framework that requires ships to enter through Iranian-controlled waters but leave through Omani routes.

That structure would be only temporary, however, with both lanes closed after an undetermined period and all traffic entering and exiting through the strait's main waterway.

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi said the agreement should not be construed as a full reopening of the strait, but a new model in

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'DAVIDSON WINDOW' Soldiers train during the annual Han Kuang military exercises in Taipei, Taiwan, this week in response to a U.S. admiral's warning that Chinese forces would strike by 2027.

SECURITY

Taiwan's military drills focus on civilian readiness as threat looms

By **ANDREW SALMON**

THE WASHINGTON TIMES

SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA | Taiwan's annual military drills are focusing heavily on the resilience of the civilian population, as the predicted "window" for a communist Chinese invasion of the democratic island closes.

The annual Han Kuang defense exercises kicked off Wednesday in dramatic fashion, with video footage of Taiwanese President Lai Ching-te, in helmet and flak vest, being escorted out of his residence after dark, boarding an armored vehicle and being conveyed through Taipei's streets.

The armored vehicle joined one of three convoys,

supposedly to confuse enemy special forces intent upon assassinating the Taiwanese leader. His destination was the National Political and Military Operations Command Center, where Mr. Lai was shown being briefed by and giving instructions to military personnel.

The Han Kuang defense drills, which run through Aug. 14, are accelerating in urgency as the "Davidson window" closes: In 2021, U.S. Navy Adm. Philip Davidson warned that Chinese forces would be ready to capture Taiwan between 2021 and 2027.

That timeline was buttressed in 2024, when then-CIA Director William Burns said Chinese

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WORKFORCE

Labor experts say employment looking brighter

Job market up, wages rising, unemployment falling

By **SEAN SALAI**

THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Labor experts say the job market is looking up, driven by rising wages and the lowest number of new unemployment filings in nearly 60 years.

Payroll processing firm ADP reported Wednesday that wages last month rose year over year by 4.4% for workers staying in their jobs, higher than the latest inflation rate of 3.5% reported for June. Those switching jobs saw a 7% bump, the largest since August 2025.

"Real wage growth has improved because inflation has moderated at the same time that it's getting harder to find workers," said Scott Siff, CEO of Pivoters, an artificial intelligence job-matching platform for older workers switching careers. "That's a recipe for driving up real wages."

Salary analytics firm Payscale reported Tuesday

that 30% of 1,200 companies it surveyed plan to offer slightly bigger raises next year, up from 16% last year. It projects the average raise will be 3.5%, up from 3.4% a year ago.

"The strongest wage growth is showing up where employers still face skill shortages or sustained demand," said Matthew Warzel, president of MJW Careers, a resume-writing firm.

He said wages are growing fastest for workers in utilities, construction, maintenance, healthcare, social services and private educational services.

Meanwhile, U.S. jobless claims came in at 199,000 for the week ending Aug. 1, below the 200,000-250,000 average since the end of the pandemic recession. The claims had dipped to 187,000 during the week ending July 18, the lowest since the Labor Department counted 182,000 in September

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IN WORKING ORDER: American jobless claims came in at 199,000 for the week ending in Aug 1. That's below the 200,000-250,000 average since the end of the pandemic recession.

OHIO

Patriot Games athletes dismiss comparison to 'Hunger' films

By **LIAM GRIFFIN**

THE WASHINGTON TIMES

More than 100 young athletes will gather in Geneva, Ohio, this weekend for the Freedom 250 Patriot Games, an athletic competition that President Trump painted as proof of American exceptionalism but which critics compared to the dystopian "Hunger Games" franchise.

The teenage athletes participating in the first-of-its-kind event that starts Sunday took exception to the harsher characterization, which was used by Democrat officials' social media accounts and riddled comment sections.

"It's a little bit diminishing," said Max Biondolillo, a 16-year-old competitor from Florida. "I don't think it should be called 'The Hunger Games,' because we're not hurting each other. It's just a pure athletic event that tests the best athletes in the country's skills."

Teens such as Max aren't competing for their lives, of course — unlike the books written by Suzanne Collins and adapted into a film series starring Jennifer Lawrence. Each competitor — one boy and one girl from each U.S. state, with additional representatives from territories and tribal nations — will instead vie for a share of a \$250,000

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POLITICS

DOGE exaggerated savings, audit queries 96% of Musk claims. A2

NATION

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