

# Capital Gazette

Monday, August 4, 2025

A Capital-Gazette Newspaper® — Annapolis, MD

\$3.50

## TRUMP WATCH

### Former Trump prosecutor faces probe

An independent watchdog agency responsible for enforcing a law against partisan political activity by federal employees has opened an investigation into Jack Smith, the Justice Department special counsel who brought two criminal cases against then-candidate Donald Trump before his election to the White House last year.

The Office of Special Counsel confirmed over the weekend that it was investigating Smith on allegations he engaged in political activity through his inquiries into Trump. Smith was named special counsel in November 2022, and his special counsel title is entirely distinct from the agency now investigating him.

It was not clear what basis exists to contend that Smith's investigations were political in nature or that he violated the Hatch Act, a federal law that bans certain public officials from engaging in political activity.

Smith brought two cases against Trump, one accusing him of conspiring to overturn the results of the 2020 presidential election and the other of hoarding classified documents at his Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida. Both were brought in 2023, well over a year before the 2024 presidential election. Former U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland has repeatedly said politics played no part in the handling of the cases.

*Here are more Trump administration headlines from Sunday:*

**U.S. attorney for D.C.:** The Senate has confirmed former Fox News host Jeanine Pirro as the top federal prosecutor for the nation's capital, filling the post after Trump withdrew his controversial first pick, conservative activist Ed Martin Jr. Pirro, a former county prosecutor and elected judge, was confirmed 50-45.

**Other nominees:** The Senate left Washington for its monthlong August recess without a deal to advance dozens of Trump's nominees. The chamber is calling it quits after days of contentious bipartisan negotiations and Trump posting on social media that Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer can "GO TO HELL!" Without a deal, Republicans say they might try to change Senate rules when they return in September to speed up confirmations.

**Just a 'dope':** Trump on Sunday lashed out at Charlamagne Tha God on social media, saying that the popular broadcaster "knows nothing about me or what I have done." Trump's comments came a day after Charlamagne, whose real name is Lenard McKelvey, criticized Trump on a Fox News show hosted by Lara Trump, the president's daughter-in-law. Asked to rate Trump's presidency, the radio host said, "I wouldn't give it a good rating simply because the least of us are still being impacted the worst." Trump said on Truth Social that Charlamagne was a "dope" who voted for Democratic Vice President Kamala Harris.

— From wire reports

## ROTARY CLUB OF ANNAPOLIS 80TH ANNUAL CRAB FEAST

### Eating like kings



Two months ago Alan Buchman, from just north of Chicago, Googled crab festivals. At 10 a.m. Friday morning he was on a plane to BWI. Just hours later he was seated and ready to enjoy a feast of crabs. "I had some time to kill," he said. **PAUL W. GILLESPIE/STAFF PHOTOS**



Rotary Club member Randy Goff loads trays of crabs onto a table for guests.



**Right:** Korie Roane wears her late grandfather Dr. Donald Roane's vintage 2000 Crab Feast t-shirt, which featured a mock front page of The Capital newspaper. **Above:** The Rotary Club of Annapolis held their 80th annual Crab Feast on Friday, at Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium, raising funds for local nonprofits and charities.



## Waterspout touches down in Annapolis, overturning boats

By Matt Hubbard

A waterspout touched down over Spa Creek in Annapolis, overturning small, stored watercraft and trailered boats Thursday, according to the National Weather Service. The touchdown occurred at 2:46 p.m. and was documented by a person at the Severn Sailing Association marina, who provided a video of the waterspout between Eastport and the U.S. Naval Academy, the weather service said.

According to the witness, the waterspout moved ashore and over the marina, where

it overturned stored watercraft in the parking lot before quickly moving back over the water.

Data provided by the NWS indicates that the waterspout touched down for less than a minute, traveled about 0.1 miles and had a width of 20 yards. The waterspout was classified as an EF-0 due to estimated wind speeds peaking at 65 mph, the weather service said. To be classified as an EF-1, wind speeds would have had to reach at least 86 mph, and the highest tornado classification is EF-5, which requires winds to reach more than 200 mph.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration defines waterspouts as tornadoes that form over water or move from land to water.

Terminal Doppler Weather Radar showed that the waterspout intensified briefly and dissipated before reaching land on the other side of the Severn River, the NWS said — noting that no other damage or injuries had been reported.

*Have a news tip? Contact Matt Hubbard at [mhubbard@baltsun.com](mailto:mhubbard@baltsun.com), 443-651-0101 or @mthubb on X.*

## Documents detail threats to lawmaker

Edgewater man's calls to Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene included slurs and accusations of racism, according to memo

By Maggie Trovato

An Edgewater man and former Voice of America employee accused of threatening to kill U.S. Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene is alleged to have called the congresswoman "racist" and an "antisemitic Nazi" in threatening phone calls to Greene's district offices, according to court documents.

A memo filed by the U.S. Attorney's Office on July 18 details the eight calls Seth Jason, 64, allegedly made to Greene's district offices between October 2023 and January 2025.

In them, Jason allegedly threatened to use firearms to kill the Republican representative from Georgia, her family, her staff members and her staff members' families.

The memo outlines how, when investigators played the voicemail recordings for Jason — who was released from custody the same day the memo was filed — he said he could not deny that it was his voice, but didn't remember making the calls.

One call recording detailed in the memo alleges



Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene, a Georgia Republican, presides over a House Committee hearing on Capitol Hill on Feb. 12 in Washington. **ROD LAMKEY JR./AP**

that Jason said:

"We are coming after you, we are coming after your family, we are coming after your staff, we are coming after your staff's family. We are locked and loaded, and we are taking you out, you Nazi, you're (an) antisemitic Nazi, and you all are going to pay the price."

The U.S. Attorney's Office said that in another call, Jason said, "We are going to express how mad we are at Greene and her team of racist Nazi followers."

In another, Jason allegedly called Greene a

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## Calls to health department stack up at The Elms

By Tori Newby

Residents of a Maryland City apartment complex that houses low-income tenants say they have been forced to endure rodent and insect infestations, piled up garbage, broken air conditioning and a host of other problems since a new property management company took over in 2024.

Anne Arundel County Department of Health inspectors confirmed many of these conditions during several visits.

M3 Management, which manages the property, says it has worked to fix the issues, but residents say they are frustrated at the seemingly slow pace of change. When the air conditioning broke during recent high temperatures, M3 Management offered free ice cream — a gesture residents said did little to alleviate the stifling heat.

The Elms at Laurel Park Apartments is a private 254-unit apartment complex in Maryland City that accepts Section 8 housing vouchers, which are federally subsidized rent for low-income tenants. A representative from M3 Management said a "significant amount" of The Elms



Residents at The Elms at Laurel Park Apartments have been dealing with repeated issues, like broken air conditioning, overflowing and smelly trash. **PAUL W. GILLESPIE/STAFF**

tenants use the vouchers, but did not say how many.

Complaints to the health department over the past year have resulted in several health code violations, including two this summer. One was for a rodent infestation and accumulation of trash in early July, and the other was for broken air conditioning in late June. The air conditioning broke a second time in late July.

"The front office just didn't care until people like me kept calling the health department," said Devyn Witherspoon, who has lived

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## New city office will cost \$2M

Brandon Scott has created the Mayor's Office of Art, Culture and Nightlife, which has a \$2 million budget. **Page 3**

## National Night Out returns

An annual event promoting positive interactions between police officers and their communities is Tuesday. **Page 5**

## 'Singapore math' to Maryland

State to try teaching methods, curricula from Singapore, a global leader in math performance by students. **Page 8**

## READER POLL

### Do you support \$2.3M for repairs to the governor's mansion?

Vote at [capitalgazette.com/readerpoll](https://capitalgazette.com/readerpoll) or by scanning this QR code with your phone.

*The Capital Gazette reader poll is an unscientific survey in which website users volunteer their opinions on the subject of the poll.*



**LAST WEEK'S RESULTS:** Who should fund disaster recovery after extreme weather events like Western Maryland floods?

**Shared responsibility,** 46.07%, 381 votes  
**Federal govt./FEMA,** 40.15%, 332 votes  
**State govt.,** 11.12%, 92 votes  
**Local govt.,** 1.33%, 11 votes  
**Not sure,** 1.33%, 11 votes

**TALK TO US:** The Capital Gazette welcomes reader submissions responding to our coverage or highlighting an issue. Letters should be 350 words or fewer and submitted online at [capitalgazette.com/letters](https://capitalgazette.com/letters) or sent to [capletts@capgaznews.com](mailto:capletts@capgaznews.com). All submissions should include your name, address and phone number.