

TRUMP WATCH

Md. judge strikes down DEI threat

A federal judge on Thursday struck down two Trump administration actions aimed at eliminating diversity, equity and inclusion programs at the nation's schools and universities.

In her ruling, U.S. District Judge Stephanie Gallagher in Maryland found that the Education Department violated the law when it threatened to cut federal funding from educational institutions that continued with DEI initiatives. The guidance has been on hold since April when three federal judges blocked various portions of the Education Department's anti-DEI measures.

The ruling Thursday followed a motion for summary judgment from the American Federation of Teachers and the American Sociological Association, which challenged the government's actions in a February lawsuit.

The new ruling orders the department to scrap the guidance because it runs afoul of procedural requirements, though Gallagher wrote that she took no view on whether the policies were "good or bad, prudent or foolish, fair or unfair."

Here are more Trump administration headlines from Thursday:

DC consent: The Washington, D.C., police chief stepped up cooperation between her officers and federal immigration officials as Trump's law enforcement takeover of the nation's capital took root Thursday. The police chief's order establishes that Metropolitan Police Department officers may now share information with immigration agencies regarding people not in custody, such as someone involved in a traffic stop or checkpoint. MPD officers may also provide "transportation for federal immigration employees and detained subjects," the order states. The changes are effective immediately. **See Page 10**

Lawsuit threat: First lady Melania Trump demanded that Hunter Biden retract comments linking her to sex trafficker Jeffrey Epstein and threatened to sue if he does not. Melania Trump takes issue with two comments Biden, son of former President Joe Biden, made in an interview this month when he alleged that Epstein introduced the first lady to now-President Donald Trump. The statements are false, defamatory and "extremely salacious," Melania Trump's lawyer, Alejandro Brito, wrote in a letter to Biden. Biden's remarks were widely disseminated, causing the first lady "to suffer overwhelming financial and reputational harm," he wrote. **See Page 7**

Vaccine task force: The Department of Health and Human Services is bringing back the Task Force on Safer Childhood Vaccines, it announced Thursday. Children's Health Defense, an organization created by Robert F. Kennedy Jr. prior to his role in the Trump administration, had filed a lawsuit against the HHS secretary for not re-establishing the safety task force, which was disbanded in 1998.

—From Sinclair National Desk and wire reports

"I just feel like it's a calling for me and I'm up for the challenge, but I don't pretend for a minute that it's going to be easy."

—Ethan Taylor



After 24 years of service, former federal employee Ethan Taylor is now teaching Spanish at a high school following his deferred resignation offered by the Department of Government Efficiency. **KEVIN RICHARDSON/SUN STAFF**

Heading back to the classroom

Displaced federal workers helping reduce state's teacher shortage

By Racquel Bazos

When the Trump administration gutted the U.S. Agency for International Development, Ethan Taylor knew the writing was on the wall for his USAID-funded job at the Department of the Interior. So he took the deferred resignation offered by the Department of Government Efficiency and ended his 24 years in the federal government rather than wait for a layoff to come.

Now Taylor is gearing up to teach two sections of Spanish I and three sections of Spanish IV starting this month as a conditional teacher at Quince Orchard High School in Gaithersburg.

Taylor is one of 18 participants in an accelerated teacher training program in Montgomery County, which is attracting former federal workers in droves in the wake of government workforce reductions.

"I just feel like it's a calling for me and I'm up for the challenge, but I don't pretend for a minute that it's going to be easy," Taylor said. "My federal position was not a cakewalk either,

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Hoyer, Olszewski meet with Netanyahu, urge him to end war

By Ben Mause

WASHINGTON — Two members of Maryland's congressional delegation returned from Israel on Thursday after meeting Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and pressing him to end the war and address the humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

"We firmly reinforced a shared perspective that only an end to the war will allow for a lasting peace, security of civilians, and the de-legitimization of Hamas once and for all," Rep. Johnny Olszewski told The Baltimore Sun. "To press him on those issues I think was really critical, both for the national security interests of our country but also in terms of addressing concerns that constituents of mine have shared with me."

Olszewski, a Baltimore County Democrat who sits on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, was among the roughly 20 Democratic lawmakers who traveled to



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu attends the U.S. Independence Day reception, known as the annual "Fourth of July" celebration, hosted by Newsmax, in Jerusalem on Wednesday. **RONEN ZVULUN/POOL/AP**

Israel last week on a diplomatic trip sponsored by AIPAC, a pro-Israel lobbying organization. The lawmakers met with various Israeli and Palestinian officials, including Netanyahu, Israeli opposition leader Yair Lapid, and Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Mohammad Mustafa.

The trip was organized and co-led by Rep. Steny Hoyer, a Democrat who represents Calvert, Charles and St. Mary's counties and portions of Prince George's and Anne Arundel counties. Hoyer has long been one of Israel's strongest

Turn to Meeting, Page 2

Putin praises peace efforts from Trump

Kyiv, Europe worry the summit in Alaska will favor Moscow

By Pan Pylas and Justin Spike
Associated Press

LONDON — Russian President Vladimir Putin on Thursday praised President Donald Trump's efforts to end the war in Ukraine, more than three years after Moscow launched its invasion, as the two leaders prepared for a pivotal summit between the U.S. and Russia Friday in Alaska.

Following a meeting Thursday with top government officials on the summit, Putin said in a short video released by the Kremlin that the Trump administration was making "quite energetic and sincere efforts to stop the hostilities" and to "reach agreements that are of interest to all parties involved."

Putin also suggested that "long-term conditions of peace between our countries, and in Europe, and in the world as a whole," could be reached under an agreement with the U.S. on nuclear arms control.

In Washington, Trump said there was a 25% chance that the summit would fail, but he also floated the idea that, if the meeting succeeds, he could bring Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to Alaska for a subsequent, three-way meeting.

In a radio interview with

Fox News, Trump also said he might be willing to stay in Alaska longer, depending on what happens with Putin.

Meanwhile, Zelenskyy and other European leaders worked to ensure their interests are taken into account when Trump and Putin meet in Anchorage.

U.K. Prime Minister Keir Starmer welcomed Zelenskyy to London on Thursday in a show of support for Ukraine a day before the critical Trump-Putin meeting. The two embraced warmly outside Starmer's offices at 10 Downing Street without any public comment, and Zelenskyy departed about an hour later.

Zelenskyy's visit came a day after he took part in virtual meetings from Berlin with Trump and the leaders of several European countries. Those leaders said that Trump had assured them that he would make a priority of trying to achieve a ceasefire in Ukraine when he meets with Putin.

Speaking Wednesday after the meetings to reporters, Trump warned of "very severe consequences" for Russia if Putin doesn't agree to stop the war against Ukraine after Friday's meeting.

While some European leaders, including German

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SPOTLIGHT ON MARYLAND

Data: Some city officials earning more than Moore

Nearly 400 top governor's salary

By Tessa Bentulan
Spotlight On Maryland

Research shows Baltimore City spent more than \$12 million in taxpayer dollars in 2024 to fund salaries for more than 150 employees in Mayor Brandon Scott's office.

A handful of those employees earned more than Maryland Gov. Wes Moore, the state's highest-ranking elected official. According to data from watchdog nonprofits, that trend continues into 2025.

Two government spending watchdogs, Open the Books and the Taxpayers Protection Alliance, told Spotlight on Maryland the salaries represent not only concerning pay disparities but also irresponsible fiscal management.

Among the highest earners in Scott's office in 2024, several made between \$196,000 and \$237,000 annually.

■ Dana Moore, director for the Office of Equity & Civil

Rights: \$237,516
■ Anthony Barksdale, deputy mayor for Public Safety: \$233,922

■ Justin Williams, deputy mayor for Community & Economic Development: \$222,840

■ Simone Johnson, deputy city administrator: \$221,326

■ Matthew Garbark, interim deputy director, DPW: \$196,807

Salaries have climbed even higher this year, with several staffers now earning well into the \$200,000 range:

■ Calvin Young, chief of staff: \$250,000

■ Marvin James, special advisor to the mayor: \$231,750

■ Faith Leach, chief administrative officer: \$275,940

■ Ebony Thompson, city solicitor: \$259,920

In comparison, Moore's salary was \$188,000 in 2024 and rose to \$192,000 in 2025. Mayor Scott himself earned nearly \$215,000 in 2024 — outpacing the governor.

One other notable example: Young, the mayor's chief of staff, currently earns \$250,000 — \$55,000 more

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Gov. Moore 'committed' to nuclear energy

No Maryland-based companies were included in President Trump's push to build three new nuclear reactors, but both Gov. Wes Moore and a Republican state senator believe nuclear power is important. **Page 3**

Attack caught on camera disrupts community

Detectives used the security system at a popular ice cream shop to track down two men suspected of trying to kill another man near Patterson Park on Saturday. **Page 3**

O's hang on to defeat Mariners, 5-3, for series win

The Orioles resorted to creating havoc on the base paths and scraped enough runs across to beat the Seattle Mariners, 5-3, and clinch a series win despite a rain delay of two hours and 18 minutes. **Sports**

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