



FDA CHIEF RESIGNS

DR. MARTY MAKARY IS RESIGNING AFTER A ROCKY 13-MONTH TENURE THAT DREW COMPLAINTS FROM PHARMA EXECS, VAPING LOBBYISTS, ANTI-ABORTION ACTIVISTS, AND OTHER TRUMP ALLIES. **C1**

WASHINGTON

Trump asserts authority over public spaces in D.C.



President Donald Trump visits the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool in Washington last week. *Mark Schiefelbein, Associated Press*

From repainting the Lincoln Memorial pool to eyeing a public golf course, the president is reshaping the capital in his own image.

Steven Sloan *Associated Press*

A federal judge weighing the future of an expansive Washington park insisted last week she had no intention of becoming Amy Poehler, the actress who spent seven seasons memorably playing the head of a local parks and recreation department.

But President Donald Trump might be interested in the role.

Shortly after the United States and Iran exchanged fire on Thursday, Trump made a quick jaunt to the National Mall to review the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool that he ordered repainted a color he describes as “American flag blue.”

The project has been on his mind lately. During an hour-plus speech Monday to small-business owners, Trump spent about nine minutes talking about the paint job, detailing the granite floor and boasting that he whittled the renovation’s cost to \$1.9 mil-



Trump ordered that the Reflecting Pool be repainted a color he described as “American flag blue.” *Julia Demaree Nikhinson, Associated Press*

lion from what, he said, was an initial \$350 million estimate.

But the project, which also includes repair work, will now cost \$13.1 million, according to a Monday report by the New York Times, citing federal records.

A Virginia firm was awarded a no-bid

contract for the project, the newspaper also reported. A spokeswoman for the Interior Department told the newspaper that the higher price “reflects the effort necessary to expedite the timeline” ahead of celebrations for the nation’s 250th anniversary. That urgency was also cited as the reason the government did not seek competing bids for the work.

Trump’s next project might be East Potomac Park, home to an affordable, accessible public golf course with views of the Washington Monument.

The Republican president has talked of transforming it into a posh “U.S. Open-caliber course.” Signs were posted last week warning of a disruption, and preservation advocates took the government to court as debris dumped there from the White House East Wing demolition tested positive for lead.

Last week, the nonprofit that operates the course said it would continue managing the space until the National Park Service begins a “historic restoration.”

Meanwhile, the White House told a planning agency that it would cost taxpayers at least \$7.5 million to follow through on Trump’s plan to paint the granite Eisenhower Executive Office Building white.

And that was just one week in Washington’s extreme makeover. **SEE WASHINGTON, A2**

CAPE MAY COUNTY

County weighs \$400M plan to replace two aging Shore bridges

The Corson’s Inlet and Townsends Inlet bridges serve thousands of summer drivers but have fallen into disrepair.

Eric Conklin *NJ.com*

Cape May County officials are reviewing proposals for two of the region’s oldest bridges, an early step toward addressing a long-standing infrastructure need at the Jersey Shore.

Commissioners recently reviewed preliminary design concepts for the Corson’s Inlet and Townsends Inlet bridges, part of an effort to modernize the county’s aging bridge network.

That effort includes a plan to fund upgrades to all five toll bridges operated by the Cape May County Bridge Commission, several of which date back to World War II and serve as key alternatives to the Garden State Parkway.

Officials expect to finalize designs by the end of the year, though fully replacing both bridges could take seven to 10 years.

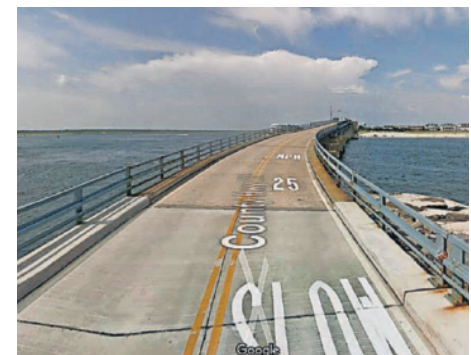
The bridges are used by between 4,000 and 5,000 cars daily during peak summer months. Replacing both bridges, which would be the most expensive option, could cost about \$400 million, county officials said.

“These bridge replacements are essential investments in the safety and connectivity that define Cape May County,” said Cape May County Commissioner-Director Leonard Desiderio, who is also mayor of Sea Isle City.

County officials suggested a mix of designs, including both fixed and retractable spans. The latter option would allow tall boats to pass beneath it. The Corson’s Inlet Bridge features a section that can be raised for boats, but it has been inoperable since 2013 because of the mechanism’s deterioration.

County officials also emphasized the need for pathways for pedestrians and cyclists on both bridges.

The Corson’s Inlet Bridge spans part of New Jersey’s Intracoastal Waterway, **SEE CAPE MAY COUNTY, A2**



The Townsends Inlet Bridge, which was built in 1939, was last repaired in 2019. *File*

TRANSPORTATION

NJ Transit, Sherrill announce efforts to improve service

New app, cleaner buses among the changes governor hopes will make your commute better.

Larry Higgs *NJ.com*

Gov. Mikie Sherrill and NJ Transit officials unveiled a plan Tuesday to address issues such as dirty buses, malfunctioning elevators and escalators, poor signage and dim lighting that have long frustrated riders.

The first improvement is a redesigned NJ Transit mobile app, which is now available for download, Sherrill said at Newark Penn Station.

Other improvements include the availability of WiFi on the agency’s newest buses, an eventual expansion of WiFi to trains and the rollout of NJT LiveView, which will use GPS to give rail riders more accurate information about train arrivals and locations.

“People want a system that is safer, cleaner, easier to navigate and reliable,” Sherrill said. “New Jersey is the most innovative state, and it should have transit that reflects that.”

The plan includes investments in cleaner buses and trains and upgraded stations. It promises enhanced safety initiatives through a new Real Time Crime Center and an upgraded mobile app.

“It starts with the NJ Transit app,” Sherrill said at Newark Penn Station.

The app was due to get its first important

test early Wednesday, when 40,000 FIFA World Cup train tickets were to go on sale at midnight, said Kris Kolluri, NJ Transit CEO.

App upgrades include improvements to MyLightRail to get more accurate information.

Similar upgrades are proposed to the app’s My Bus feature, which is currently only 75% accurate. The goal is to get it to 99%, Kolluri said.

An upgraded NJ Transit website will be launched this summer.

Future information improvements will come when NJ Transit’s next-generation platform, NJT LiveView, debuts. It promises real-time GPS-enabled arrival information, service updates and customer **SEE TRANSPORTATION, A2**

NATION & WORLD

New hantavirus case

A Spanish passenger evacuated from the cruise ship at the center of a hantavirus outbreak has tested positive for the virus, Spain’s health ministry announced Tuesday. **C3**

SOMERSET COUNTY

Kids must pay to play

Students in one of New Jersey’s wealthiest towns will start paying fees to play sports and participate in clubs — but a lesser amount than proposed. **A5**