

TO GIVE THE NEWS IMPARTIALLY, WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOR

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Fed grant reviews criticized by top officials

BY TONY ROMM
NEW YORK TIMES NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Some of the nation’s top law enforcement officials were not pleased when the White House embarked on its push to assert more political control over more than \$1 trillion in annual federal grants.

The proposal, unveiled in May, stood to enable the administration to steer significant funding to causes and organizations aligned with President Donald Trump — and to cancel grants if recipients did not conform to his political views. That troubled a set of groups representing sheriffs, narcotics officers and district attorneys, which said this month that the “undefined expectations” in Washington could interfere with public safety.

The letter was one of roughly 500,000 formal comments that have flooded the Trump administration in recent weeks. Many of the posted submissions expressed misgivings with the draft White House plan to take greater control of federal spending.

The opposition has been wide-ranging, spanning academic researchers, artists, city leaders, civil engineers, congressional lawmakers, housing experts, state attorneys general and regular Americans, who have warned that the White

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Pill to slash cholesterol approved

BY GINA KOLATA
NEW YORK TIMES NEWS SERVICE

The Food and Drug Administration approved a daily pill on Thursday that can lower cholesterol levels far below what can be achieved with statins, the cheap cholesterol-reducing pills.

The drug, enlicitide, whose brand name is Lipfendra, is made by the pharmaceutical company Merck. Clinical trials have shown that it can bring levels of LDL — the dangerous type of cholesterol — down to 50 or 60 or even lower. Adults not taking cholesterol-lowering drugs usually have levels above 100. It works by inhibiting a protein known as PCSK9.

New cholesterol guidelines issued by the American Heart Association and the American College of Cardiology say that people who have an above-average risk of heart attacks or strokes should get their LDL levels below 70. Those at high risk because, for example, they have had a heart attack, should get their LDL below 55.

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President Donald Trump speaks in the East Room of the White House Thursday in Washington.

Trump questions past elections in address

BY MICHELLE L. PRICE, ERIC TUCKER AND COLLIN BINKLEY
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump used a primetime address to the nation Thursday to once again raise doubts about the results of past elections, reviving a subject he’s long used to make unproven claims and deny his loss in the 2020 election.

Trump’s fixation on his loss to Democrat Joe Biden six years ago and the long-debunked theories he’s circulated about it are things he still brings up regularly when discussing other subjects. But elevating the deeply political and conspiratorial topics to a presidential prime-time address underscores the lengths to which Trump has used his second term to both blow past norms and fixate on old grievances.

Trump’s speech presented allegations of interference and influence in ways that lacked key context, and did not produce evidence that votes had been manipulated or that the election outcome had been altered.

Trump began Thursday night with a stark warning about what he described as flaws in the voting system and said he was releasing previously

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AIRPORT TAKEOVER



Corey Gearrin, left, laughs with Chattanooga Airport President and CEO April Cameron after the Chattanooga Airport Board meeting Thursday.

New state-appointed board withdraws from city lawsuit

BY RAYMON TRONCOSO
STAFF WRITER

A new state-run board for the Chattanooga Airport on Thursday voted to withdraw Lovell Field from the city’s lawsuit attempting to keep the previous, locally run board in place.

The Chattanooga Metropolitan Airport Authority had a quorum with five of its nine mandated members present at the specially called meeting. Three of those four absences are due to the city not appointing its entitled members of the authority. The committee, with no discussion, unanimously voted to remove itself from the lawsuit initiated by the previous board members.

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Shannon Burger, CEO of Cempa Community Care, was selected to chair the new board.

“I believe that we bring finance, healthcare, commercial industry, small business, large business to the table, and we even have a judge sitting on our team,” Burger said of her fellow appointees. “The commissioners are really well thought out. I think the state did a wonderful job ... hopefully we will have three more soon.”



Board Chair Shannon Burger listens during the Chattanooga Airport Board meeting

Jonathan Cantrell of Caldwell Paving; Fred Decosimo of Decosimo Corporate Finance; Judge Howard Upchurch of Bledsoe County Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court; and Cory Gearrin, former deputy Hamilton County mayor, were the other state appointees present.

Clarence Howard, vice president of construction at Thunder Enter-

prises and an appointee of Lt. Gov. Randy McNally, was absent due to a prior scheduled engagement.

Chattanooga Airport CEO April Cameron said she was notified Monday the meeting would take place, the same day a public notice was issued for the special session.

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