### G.O.P. Voters Of Two Minds Toward Trump

Many Ready to Back a

Rival, a Poll Finds

By MICHAEL C. BENDER As Donald J. Trump weight whether to open an unusually early White House campaign, a New York Times/Siena Colley New York Times/Siena College pol shows that his post-presidential quest to consolidate his support within the Republican Parls has asstead left him weekened, with nearly half the party's primary voters seeking someone different for president in 2024 and a significant number vowing to about on the property of the prop

Mr. Framp's conduct on Jan. 4, 2021, appears to have contributed to the decline in his standing, in-cluding among a small but impor-tant segment of Republicans who could form the base of his opposition in a potential primary con test. While 75 percent of primary voters said Mr. Trump was "just exercising his right to contest the election," nearly one in five said he "went so far that he threatened American democracy."

Overall, Mr. Trump maintains

his primacy in the party: In a hypothetical matchup against five other potential Republican presidential rivals, 49 percent of primary voters said they would support him for a third nomination.

The greatest threat to usurp Mr. Trump within the party is Gov. Ron DeSantis of Florida, who was the second choice with 25 percent and the only other contender with and the only other contender with double-digit support. Among pri-mary voters, Mr. DeSantis was the top choice of younger Republi-cans, those with a college degree and those who said they voted for President Biden in 2020.

and utone with Sato uney. We can be able to the White about cased borner to Republicases said they didn't know enough to have an opasion about Mr. DeSantis, he was well-liked by those who did. Among those who was said to the said the said to the said to the said the said to the said ians was 16 points closer among Republicans who mainly receive

The survey suggests that Mr. Trump would not necessarily enter a primary with an insurmou able advantage over rivals like Mr. DeSantis. His share of the Republican primary electorate is less increases have been slowly than Hillary Clinton's among spilling over to official inflation



Taking In the Presidential Palace

Hundreds of Sri Lankans filled the official residence of Gotabaya Rajapaksa on Monday. He says he will resign Wednesday. Page A4.

### As Prices Rise. Rental Market Is Hard to Exit

By JEANNA SMIALEK

Rents have been rising swiftly sens and the sense of the ses America for much of the demic era, and housing ex-ts are warning that they could receive a boost from an un-

As the central bank raises interlaid in apartments and rented houses, it could compound al-ready-booming demand — keep-ing pressure on rental prices. While it is tough to predict how

duced bump in rental demand make it more difficult for the cen tral bank to wrestle inflation lowclosely tracked Con thing that helps to keep climbing at an unusually climbing at an unusually brisk pace is likely to perpetuate rapid

pace is likely to perpetuate rapid influsion.

Rents on new leases (timbed by 141 percent in he year through 141 percent in he year through 142 percent increase white the 175 percent increase over the 175 percent increase over the course of 2021, it is still an unusually rapid pace of growth, before pace of amount increases was normal. The recent quick market rent increases have been slowly

### Musk Leaves Twitter Weakened and Vulnerable

and MIKE ISAAC
SAN FRANCISCO — For years, media company. It never grow to the size and scale of a Facebook or

ong.
Then, Elon Musk, a power user f the service, stormed in. He ofered \$44 billion to buy Twitter

And the company

Bitter Legal Battle After Months of Meddling

needling tweet and public taunt, Mr. Musk has eroded trust in the policies, complained about the product and confused its more than 7,000 employees with his pro-nouncements. As Mr. Mask re-vealed the company's lack of busi-ness and financial prospects, Twitter's stock plunged more than "His engagement with Twitter

took a severe toll on the company," said Jason Goldman, a member of Twitter's founding team who has

> ry. Ukrainian officials said Mondo that in the previous 24 hours, Rus-sian strikes had killed at least Province, which includes Chasiv Yar, at least 10 cities and towns were hit, and two people killed, bringing the civilian death toll in the province to nearly 600 since Russin invaded Ukraine in Febru-

Continued on Page A8

Galaxies in Our Eves The Webb Space Telescope's infrared image of the distant universe was unveiled Monday. Page A18. of bravery and sacrifice. PAGE A

## AS IT REGROUPS. RUSSIA PUMMELS UKRAINIAN CITIES

FIRE RAINS FROM SKY

Seemingly Random Hits Terrorize Residents in Eastern Province

This article is by Carlotte Gall, Kamila Hrabchuk and Matther Mpoke Bigg.

BAKHMUT, Ukraine — Over ne town, an are of fireballs burst nd drifted down like fireworks, etting gardens and homes blaze. In another, Russian mis-iles slammed into a five-story artment block, shearing off de of the building and killing at

used its drive to seize Ukmin territory, but in recent days, it inder that it can inflict casu

nan strikes, delivered by

Russian forces are using the full in their ground offensive to re-group and resupply, in like with President Videntim V: Putins or der last weck that some troops rest after the capture of Luhnant, Province, military analysis said on Monday Boyend the frost loses, the destruction and carabencing for a reserved astraut, In the town of Classiv Yar, in eastern Ukraine, emergency cross were still flinding bodies on Monday from a ningle attack over

Thus began what U.S. and Iraqi Kurdish officials describe as a crash effort aimed at build ing the biggest arsenal of chemi-cal and, potentially, biological weapons ever assembled by a terrorist group. Within six months, under Sabawis direc-tion, the Islamic State would day, and the death toll has risen to manufacture mustard gas, a chemical weapon from the World gency Service said. Some of the dead were members of the mili-War I era, as well as bombs and

rockets filled with chlorine.

But Sabawi's ambitions, and
by extension Baghdadi's, were much broader, according to new v disclosed details on the Islam State weapons program. Iraqi

ISIS aimed

Europe with

Ambitions of Iragi

weapons expert revealed

in new program details

In the summer of 2014, as his followers were ravaging the cit-ies of northern Iraq, Islamic State leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi convened a secret

meeting with a weapons expert whose unusual skills the terror-

had only recently been freed

from a years-long stint in U.S. and Iraqi prisons. But before that, Salih al-Sabawi had been an

Iraqi official of some renown: a

Russian-trained engineer who had once helped President Sad-

dam Hussein build his extensive arsenal of chemical weapons.

baginasii nad summoned Sa-bawi, 52, to offer him a job. If supplied with the right equip-ment and resources, could be

produce the same weapons for the Islamic State? Sabawi's reply, according to a later intelligence report about the meeting, was

ves. He could do that and mo

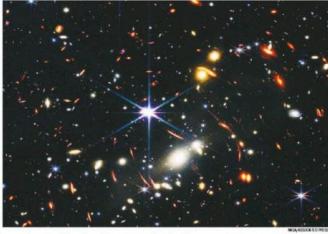
Rarbdadi had summoned Sa-

ist chief was anxious to acc

chemicals

to attack

A look deep into space and time



The Washington Post

NASA on Monday released the first full-color image from the \$10 billion James Webb Space Telescope, launched in December. The image shows a cluster of galaxies, called SMACS 0723, that function as a lens. "We're looking back more than 13 billion years." NASA's administrator said at the White House, Story, A5

THE URER FILES IA CLOBAL INVESTIGATION

## 'Hit the kill switch': Covert tech used to foil raids

AND JOSEPH MENN

ities raided Uber's Amsterdam office in April 2015, Ligea Wells's computer screen mysteriously went blank. The exec-

ready eventful day.
"his" she typed in a message that's part of a trove of more than 124,000 previously undis-closed Uber records. "My laptop shut down after acting fu But her computer's behavior was no mystery to some of her

tems in Amsterdam cut off from Uber's internal network, maksystems. "Access must be shut down in AMS," referring to Amas they raided its Europe

seadquarters, The whistleblower: A former ow.
"Please hit the kill switch ASAP," Kalanick had emailed, ordering a subordinate to block

executive stees forward A17 Influence campaign; Investors

ironment appeared as fa

Senate

WOLLA

chances

CANDIDATE ISSUES Nominees struggling in

several marquee races

BY MICHAEL SCHOOL

At a recent Republican done retreat in Chicago, Herschel Walk-er was asked a question about fiscal discipline and balancing the

budget. The GOP nominee for U.S.

seage in Georgia replied with a long answer on Black Lives Matter and the police, failing to address the question, according to people with knowledge of the event.

The surprised reaction to Wall

er's response was familiar to Re nublicans who have been trackin

his struggling bid in one of th

in the nation. Since easily winnin

his primary, his polling edge against Sen. Raphael G. Warnock (D) has become a deficit amid

erratic campaigning, verbal flubs and disclosures about three chil-dren he had not previously spoken

about publicly.

The result has been a rescue

nission, belmed in part by the

Committee, which has led to sex

eral veteran staff hires by Walker

campaign, including Brett O'Don nell, the party's most celebrate

debate prep strategist. It is just one of the ways GOP leaders have

found themselves dealing wit cleanup efforts as they round th

summer bend on what should be

# A year after protests, Cuba confronts an exodus

Harassment, threats and tanking economy are driving defections

BY CHRISTINE ARMARIO

MIAMI - José Carlos Melo had never protested before the hot July morning last year when Cu-bans began marching in a small town outside Hawana. Within hours, people were calling for a demonstration in the capital. With his mother's blessing, the

restaurant manager ventured out to join the thousands chanting "Freedom?" and "It's over?" Melo would be tear gassed and

shoved to the ground. But on Instagram and in television inter-views in the days that followed, he recounted it as the happiest day of his life - a turning point that seemed to mark a before and an

What came next was more complicated. State security agents lurked outside his home.



THE COVID MONEY TRAIL

### Looking to fund tax cuts. states seize on federal aid

GOP lawsuits challenge one of Congress's few limits on relief dollars

BY TONY ROMM

record highs this May, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis (R) secured a pause on the state's fuel taxes — a \$200 million plan he helped pay for with a pot of federal funds

awarded earlier in the pandemic The policy was intended to save money for local drivers and state coffers alike. But it also appeared to mark a potential appeared to mark a potential violation of federal law — and the latest skirmish in an escalating clash between GOP officials and the White House over how states

gress approved a \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief package, Re-publicans in nearly two dozen states have ratcheted up efforts t tap some of those funds for a to siphon off aid that migh otherwise help states fight the pandemic, shore up their loca economies or prepare for a poten

The intensifying Republicacampaign targets one of the sig nature programs Democrats ap proved as part of Presiden Biden's American Rescue Plan last year. At the urging of the nation's mayors and governors Congress delivered what largel every city and state to bolste

Congress ultimately laid down

# Hochul's Transparency Vow Hits a Snag: Hochul States That Ban Abortion Risk Losing Business

ALBANY, N.Y. - In the last days of the 2022 legislative ses-

eived a joiting email.

Gov. Kathy Hochul was asking

Genate.

Deals to Give Subsidies Are Made in Private

ductor plants to New York, according to the message from Dem-

the Senate on its last scheduled day after Ms. Hochul invoked day after Ms. Hochul invoked emergency procedures, known as a "message of necessity." The As-sembly quickly followed suit. No poblic hearing, where criti-cism might be aired and taxpayer

"There's really no one with a

By ALEXANDER BURNS

As a group of conservative states enacted severe abortion re-

states enacted severe abortion re-strictions last year, Gov. J.B. Pritz-ker of Illinois sent letters to a handful of corporate executives with close ties to Texas. Mr. Pritzker, a Democrat, urged executives to rethink basing their companies in "a state that strips its residents of their dignity. Most workers, he wrote, did not want to

Policies Likely to Push Young Talent Away

live under a rigid abortion ban. There was no immediate response to his overture. Companies thriving in Texas' freewheeling

and legal landscape is radically different. And a Supreme Court decision that abolished the right to an abortion is now threate Continued on Page A17

OVER THE COUNTER A company