

The Washington Post

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Democracy Dies in Darkness

WEDNESDAY, JULY 13, 2022 • B2

An epic lawsuit: Twitter v. Musk

Company initiates legal battle after billionaire tried to terminate sale

BY ELIZABETH DWOSKIN AND RACHEL LERMAN

Twitter filed suit Tuesday against Elon Musk to force the billionaire to make good on his promise to purchase the company, issuing the first legal volley in what is expected to be one of the most high-profile business trials in recent history.

In a scathing attack on Musk and his motivations, Twitter accused the world's richest man of flagrant hypocrisy, self-interested rule-breaking and of purposefully trying to hurt the company that as incoming owner he was duty-bound to protect.

"Having mounted a public spectacle to put Twitter in play, and having proposed and then signed a seller-friendly merger agreement, Musk apparently believes that he — unlike every other party subject to Delaware contract law — is free to change his mind, trash the company, disrupt its operations, destroy stockholder value, and walk away," the company wrote in a fiery legal complaint, referring to Musk's exit strategy as a "model of hypocrisy."

For months Musk has publicly threatened to walk away from the sale of the influential social network, efforts that culminated last week in a Securities and Exchange Commission filing claiming he was "terminating" the agreement because Twitter hadn't given him enough information about spam and bots on its service. Twitter's

SEE TWITTER ON A17

Trump hid Capitol plan, panel finds



SAVAH SILVERBY/REUTERS

Roster Stephen Ayres apologizes to Capitol Police officer Harry Dunn after testifying Tuesday before the Jan. 6 select committee.

2020 TWEET UNITED RIGHT-WING GROUPS

White House counsel says advice was ignored

BY ISAAC STANLEY-BECKER AND JACQUELINE ALEMANY

Donald Trump scrawled the words on Twitter that motivated right-wing extremists to seek blood on Jan. 6, 2021, and kept secret a plan to direct his supporters to the Capitol that day, according to evidence and testimony presented Tuesday at the seventh hearing of the House select committee investigating the pro-Trump riot.

The tweet was issued at 1:42 a.m. on Dec. 19, 2020, after an hours-long meeting with outside advisers about seizing voting machines that a White House adviser described in real time as "unhinged."

"Big protest in D.C. on January 6th," wrote the president. "Be there, will be wild!"

The message marked a turning point in Trump's efforts to stay in power and, in the telling of Rep. Jamie B. Raskin (D-Md.), "would galvanize his followers, unleash a political firestorm and change the course of our history as a country."

Notably, the committee member said, the president's move to advertise a protest on Jan. 6 caused the Proud Boys and the Oath Keepers, two right-wing extremist groups that have not historically worked together, to join hands and coordinate their planning, including with maps of D.C. that pinpointed the location of police.

The tweet also illustrated, said

SEE HEARING ON A4

The Critique: Two evildoers seek redemption from the public. **A2**

Fire warning: Former Oath Keeper testifies on far-right violence. **A5**

Cheney: Trump tried to call witness who has yet to testify

BY ISAAC ARNSDORF AND JOSH DAWSEY

Rep. Liz Cheney (R-Wyo.) ended Tuesday's hearing of the House committee investigating the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol with a direct warning to former president Donald Trump.

Sometime in the past two weeks, Cheney said, Trump tried to call someone whom she

identified as a witness who has not yet appeared in the committee's hearings. The person didn't take the call and instead alerted their lawyer, who in turn told the committee. The committee reported the call to the Justice Department, Cheney said, suggesting the possibility of a crime.

"Let me say one more time," Cheney, the panel's vice chair, **SEE TRUMP ON A4**

Rivals tell of wild theories, threats, fury in Oval Office

BY ROSALIND S. HELDERMAN AND JOSH DAWSEY

Late on a Friday night about six weeks after Donald Trump lost his reelection, a fistfight nearly broke out in the White House between the president's fired national security adviser and a top White House aide.

A motley crew of unofficial Trump advisers had talked their way into the Oval Office and an

audience with the president of the United States to argue the election had been stolen by shadowy foreign powers — perhaps remotely via Nest thermostats.

For hours, the group tried to persuade Trump to take extraordinary, potentially illegal action to ignore the election results and try to stay in power. And for hours, some of Trump's actual

SEE MEETING ON A5

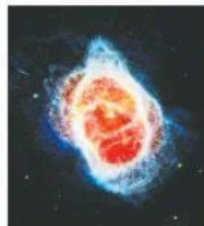
Webb telescope delivers the drama of the cosmos

Full-color images show NASA project is more powerful than expected

BY JOEL ACHENBACH

NASA on Tuesday released the first set of full-color images and data obtained by the revolutionary \$10 billion James Webb Space Telescope, and it is quite the cosmic show: colliding galaxies, a dying star shedding itself layer by layer, a glorious stellar nursery and the intriguing signs of water vapor and clouds on a giant planet whirling around a faraway star.

The telescope appears to be even more powerful than the people who dreamed it up had hoped. It is able to see further into the depths of space and time than the acclaimed Hubble, collecting the exquisitely faint infrared light emitted by the first stars and galaxies more than



The Southern Ring Nebula seen about 2,000 light-years away.

13 billion years ago.

"It sees things that I never dreamed were out there," senior project scientist John Mather, a Nobel laureate who started working on the telescope in 1995, said after the unveiling of the images.

The Webb project has been a long and difficult journey filled with hazards, but it has produced new

SEE TELESCOPE ON A8

THE UBER FILES | A GLOBAL INVESTIGATION

Drivers risked debt and danger in South Africa

BY DOUGLAS MACMILLAN

CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA — He had been a cop, a factory worker and a taxi driver, but at 44, Shaun Cupido had yet to find a path to prosperity. Murderous gangs ruled Manenberg, the apartheid-built township where he had spent his whole life, and he was sick of having to remind his three children to lie down and cover their heads every time they heard the pop of bullets.

Then, in 2017, Cupido found a job he thought might finally change his fortunes. Uber promised to let South Africans make their own hours and be their own bosses. He rented a car, began ferrying tourists around Cape Town's waterfront shopping districts and cliffside resorts, and for a while, the money was good. He started to dream of building his own business operating a fleet of cars for the ride-hailing company.

But little by little, he said, Uber made changes to its service that lowered his pay and raised his risks. The company recruited new

SEE CAPE TOWN ON A10



SHAWN NATH REINDERS FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Shaun Cupido thought driving for Uber would be a path to prosperity from his dangerous township.