

The Washington Post

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Democracy Dies in Darkness

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10, 2022 • B2

In Mich., a push to win over women

Democrats see a chance to capitalize on upcoming vote on abortion rights

BY HANNAH KNOWLES

MASON, MICH. — Sitting next to her two teenage daughters at the county fair — a luxury as rising prices squeezed the family budget — Lois Smith said she was worried about the end of *Roe v. Wade*.

She calls herself “pro-life”; she calls President Biden a “puppet”; she wants former president Donald Trump to run again. But Smith is not sure how she’ll vote in this year’s midterm elections, as many Republican candidates in Michigan back a near-total ban on abortion that is still working through the courts.

On one thing, Smith, 52, was confident — she would vote to make abortion a constitutional right in her state.

“If my girls had come to me and said, ‘Mom, I’m pregnant, I don’t want to keep the baby’ ... ultimately it’s going to be their decision,” Smith, who identified as an independent voter, said Friday in a small suburb of Lansing, the state capital.

A decisive victory for abortion rights in conservative Kansas — which voted overwhelmingly last week to continue guaranteeing access to the procedure in the state constitution — has galvanized Democrats hopeful that the Supreme Court’s decision overturning *Roe* will reshape the midterms by opening inroads with key voters. Michigan, a purple state with competitive races for

SEE ABORTION ON A4



Carlos Morales, wearing a T-shirt for the immigrant rights organization WeCount!, trims shrubbery Aug. 1 in Homestead, Fla.

EXTREME SUMMER

More danger in a day’s work

BY ANNA PHILLIPS

HOMESTEAD, FLA. — In the nearly two decades she has worked in South Florida’s plant nurseries, baking under greenhouse plastic covers, Sandra Ascencio has seen more than her share of misery.

Ascencio remembers seeing the body of a co-worker several years ago crumpled in the parking lot as paramedics tried to revive her. The woman struggled with asthma in hot weather and may have been trying to reach her air-conditioned car, Ascencio said.

In 2008, Ascencio collapsed while

As employees bake, industry groups fight new safeguards against heat

working at a different nursery. She said she suffered heatstroke, lost consciousness and spent a week in the hospital.

Today, she belongs to a growing group of immigrant laborers in South Florida pushing for what many health experts say is the best way to prevent heatstroke as temperatures reach new extremes: a law requiring em-

ployers to provide outdoor workers with drinking water, shade and rest breaks on hot days.

But as the need to keep workers safe from heat grows, many efforts to do so have failed. While places such as California and Washington have adopted workplace rules to address heat exposure, many other states’ attempts to mandate these protections have been blocked or weakened following opposition from industry groups representing agriculture, construction and other business interests, according to public records and those

SEE WORKERS ON A6

Agents sought return of items

DOZEN BOXES SEIZED, TRUMP LAWYER SAYS

Officials suspected U.S. property was withheld

This article is by Declin Barrett, Josh Dawsey, Rosalind S. Helderman, Jacqueline Alemany and Spencer S. Hsu.

In the months before the FBI’s dramatic move to execute a search warrant at former president Donald Trump’s Florida home and open his safe to look for items, federal authorities grew increasingly concerned that Trump or his lawyers and aides had not, in fact, returned all the documents and other material that were government property, according to people familiar with the discussions.

Officials became suspicious that when Trump gave 15 boxes of items to the National Archives about seven months ago, either the former president or people close to him held on to key records — despite a Justice Department investigation into the handling of classified and other material that had been sent to the former president’s private club and residence in the waning days of his administration.

SEE SEARCH ON A8

Simmering threat of violence comes to fore

BY HANNAH ALLAM

For months, right-wing agitators with millions of followers have peddled the idea that a moment was coming soon when violence would become necessary — a patriotic duty — to save the republic.

With the FBI search Monday of Donald Trump’s compound in Florida, that moment is now, according to enraged commentators’ all-caps, exclamation-pointed screeds urging supporters of the former president to take up arms. Within hours of the search at Mar-a-Lago, a chorus of Republican lawmakers, conservative talk-show hosts, anti-government provocateurs and pro-Trump conspiracy theorists began issuing explicit or thinly veiled calls for violence.

“Today is war. That is all you will get on today’s show,” right-wing podcaster Steven Crowder announced Tuesday to his nearly 2 million followers on Twitter, referring to the program that goes to his YouTube audience of 5.6 million.

SEE VIOLENCE ON A9

Trump’s taxes: House Democrats can see documents, judges say. A2

GOP reaction: Many Republicans intensely critiques of search. A10

Handling a scoop: Why Florida publisher shared tip on Twitter. C1

FDA plan aims to stretch low supply of monkeypox vaccine

BY DAN DIAMOND AND FENIT NIRAPPL

Biden administration officials announced Tuesday a new strategy to split monkeypox vaccine doses in hopes of vaccinating up to five times as many people against the virus.

The plan, unveiled days after the federal government declared monkeypox a public health emergency amid criticism over the administration’s response to

the rapidly unfolding crisis, would allow public health officials to stretch their limited supply of monkeypox vaccine doses by changing how those shots are administered. Rather than inject doses of Jynneos subcutaneously, a traditional way of delivering vaccines into the fatty tissue under the skin, the doses would instead be injected under the top layer of the skin. This approach, known as an

SEE MONKEYPOX ON A3

Police in N.M. arrest suspect in shootings of Muslim men

BY KATIE SHEPHERD

After a weeks-long search, Albuquerque police announced the arrest of a suspect in connection with four fatal shootings of Muslim men that had left the city’s Muslim community living in fear.

Officials said they plan to charge 51-year-old Muhammad Syed with murder in the slayings of Aftab Hussein, 41, and Muhammad Afaal Hussain, 27. Officers are still investigating a possi-

ble link between Syed and the fatal shootings of two other men. Deputy Police Commander Kyle Hartsock said at a news conference Tuesday that police began investigating Syed following a tip from the community that led officers to get a warrant to search his house and car.

As officers arrived at Syed’s home Monday to execute the warrant, they saw Syed enter a Volkswagen Jetta — the same kind of

SEE SHOOTINGS ON A4



VAUGHN ROLEY/GETTY IMAGES

A legend gets ready to step away

Serena Williams, a 23-time Grand Slam champion, wrote of her imminent retirement from tennis in *Vogue* magazine, which published her first-person account online Tuesday. The 40-year-old didn’t say when she would retire but hinted it would be after the U.S. Open, which starts Aug. 29 in New York: “I don’t know if I will be ready to win New York. But I’m going to try.” **Sports, D1**