

# The Washington Post

Prices may vary in areas outside metropolitan Washington.

SU V1 V2 V3 V4

Partly sunny 65/55 • Tomorrow: Showers 67/43 B6

Democracy Dies in Darkness

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2024 • \$3

## 2 women say Gaetz paid them for sex

One told ethics panel she saw him having sex with minor, lawyer says

BY JACQUELINE ALEMANY, LIZ GOODWIN AND PERRY STEIN

A woman testified to the House Ethics Committee that former congressman Matt Gaetz paid her for sex and that she witnessed President-elect Donald Trump's pick for attorney general having sex with a 17-year-old at a party, her lawyer said over the weekend.

Florida attorney Joel Leppard said in an interview with The Washington Post that one of his clients witnessed Gaetz having sex with the minor at a drug-fueled party in July 2017 — and that Gaetz was unaware of her age at the time but subsequently was told she was underage. ABC News first reported the news.

This woman and a second woman, also represented by Leppard, testified that they were paid by Gaetz to have sex with him and other individuals who attended these "sex parties." They were paid through Venmo or other conduits — including the PayPal of Nestor Galban, whom Gaetz has referred to as his "adopted son."

Gaetz never pressured Leppard's clients to do drugs at these parties, one of his clients testified, but she said that the use of drugs, such as ecstasy, was widespread and expected. When they were asked by House investigators if Gaetz showed signs of being on

SEE GAETZ ON A4

**Transportation:** Trump picks ex-lawmaker Duffy to lead agency. A14



HAIATHAM IMAD/EPA-EFE/SHUTTERSTOCK

Palestinians wait to fill containers with drinking water Monday amid the destruction in the Khan Younis camp in southern Gaza.

## Israel ignores gangs looting aid in Gaza, groups say

This article is by Claire Parker, Loveday Morris, Hajar Harb, Miriam Berger and Hazem Balousha

CAIRO — As Gaza's hunger crisis worsens, organized gangs are stealing much of the aid Israel allows into the enclave, operating freely in areas controlled by the Israeli military, according to aid group officials, humanitarian workers, transport companies and witnesses.

Officials said criminal looting has become the greatest impediment to distributing aid in the southern half of Gaza, home to the vast majority of displaced Palestinians. Armed bands of men have

Internal U.N. memo says crime outfits may benefit from IDF 'protection'

killed, beaten and kidnapped aid truck drivers in the area around Israel's Kerem Shalom crossing, the main entry point into Gaza's south, aid workers and transport companies said.

The thieves, who have run cigarette-smuggling operations throughout this year but are now also stealing food and other supplies, are tied to local crime fami-

lies, residents say. The gangs are described by observers as rivals of Hamas and, in some cases, they have been targeted by remnants of Hamas's security forces in other parts of the enclave.

An internal United Nations memo obtained by The Washington Post concluded last month that the gangs "may be benefiting from a passive if not active benevolence" or "protection" from the Israel Defense Forces. One gang leader, the memo said, established a "military like compound" in an area "restricted, controlled and patrolled by the IDF."

Aid organizations say Israeli authorities have denied most of

their requests for better measures to safeguard convoys, including appeals for safer routes, more open crossings and permission to allow Gaza's civilian police to protect the trucks. Israeli forces within view of the attacks have also failed on multiple occasions to intervene as looting was underway, aid workers, U.N. officials, transport workers and truck drivers say.

The Israeli military has denied the allegations, saying in a statement that its troops have carried

SEE GAZA ON A12

**Papal proposal:** Francis calls for inquiry into possible genocide. A11

## GOP weighs cuts to benefits

POTENTIAL CHANGES TO MEDICAID, SNAP

On the table: Spending caps, work requirements

BY JACOB BOGAGE, JEFF STEIN AND DAN DIAMOND

President-elect Donald Trump's economic advisers and congressional Republicans have begun preliminary discussions about making significant changes to Medicaid, food stamps and other federal safety net programs to offset the enormous cost of extending Trump's 2017 tax cuts next year.

Among the options under discussion by GOP lawmakers and aides are new work requirements and spending caps for the programs, according to seven people familiar with the talks, many of whom spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly. Those conversations have included some economic officials on Trump's transition team, the people said.

However, concern is high among some Republicans about the political downsides of such cuts, which would affect programs that provide support for at least 70 million low-income Americans, and some people familiar with the talks stressed that discussions are preliminary.

"I don't think that passing just an extension of tax cuts that

SEE SAFETY NET ON A7

**Health insurance:** ACA plans could get pricier under new Congress. A13

## Beat is different in NFL's new dance with Trump

BY ADAM KILGORE

In euphoric moments typically reserved for spiked footballs and high-fives, a handful of National Football League players Sunday afternoon celebrated with a dance striking for both its physical awkwardness and political undertones.

The mild hip gyrations paired with slightly flailing, alternating arm punches were subtle but unmistakable: It was the "Trump dance," the swaying moves President-elect Donald Trump made a signature at his rallies, usually while "YMCA" blared.

Las Vegas Raiders tight end Brock Bowers did the Trump dance after scoring a touchdown. Detroit Lions defensive players

Za'Darius Smith and Malcolm Rodriguez shimmied together after a sack. Tennessee Titans wide receivers Calvin Ridley and Nick Westbrook-Ikhine performed the dance in the back of the end zone.

Just a handful of the roughly 3,000 players who will cycle through the NFL this season performed the dance, hardly evidence in any direction of a how diverse workforce views the president-elect. It's not even clear whether the players were exhibiting support or simply performing a dance they find amusing.

"While wearing a MAGA hat is a definitive show of support, the dance is a grayer area — mocking? Supportive? Just fun?" said Amy Bass, Manhattanville University

SEE DANCE ON A4



RICH STORRY/GETTY IMAGES

Raiders tight end Brock Bowers does the "Trump dance" with teammates after his touchdown Sunday.

RETROPOLIS

## A century later, a chance discovery resolves a doughboy's death

BY JOBY WARRICK

They had fought together at Belleau Wood, clawing their way through enemy-infested thickets in a battle that became legendary in the Marine Corps. They had clung to the sides of the same shell hole under a fierce artillery barrage at Soissons and charged uphill against machine-gun fire on the chalky slopes of Blanc Mont Ridge.

Through five months of combat, they had been the survivors: the 83rd Company's "old men," though still in their 20s. Along the way, Marine Pvt. Jim Scarbrough and Foster Stevens had gone from being squad mates and comrades to best friends.

"We'll just soldier through this, me and you," Stevens had said in his mild North Carolina drawl as he put an arm around Scarbrough after a fierce nighttime skirmish



Marine Pvt. Foster Stevens

with German defenders in June 1918. "I'll be right here."

Then came Nov. 2 and the start of the Great War's last major assault. The day would begin before sunrise for the battle-weary Marines. For Scarbrough, it would end after dark with a grief-filled encounter in the gloom of the battlefield, and a searing memory that would be borne in secret for decades. It would take a century, and a

chance discovery, before the secret abruptly revealed itself to a family that had been shattered by that day's events, then left to ponder and search in vain for answers.

That family was mine. As the morning unfolded, the two friends had taken their positions in neighboring foxholes, close enough to keep an eye on each other. There was a last-

SEE MARINE ON A18

## IN THE NEWS

**Adding 'fuel to the fire'** Moscow says President Joe Biden's decision to ease rules on Ukraine's use of some longer-range U.S. missiles will increase tensions. A10

**Go-go galore** A museum dedicated to D.C.'s native sound opened in Anacostia with a ceremony attended by some legends. B1

**THE NATION** Colleges are admitting a larger proportion of applicants than they did 20 years ago. A2  
**The ACLU** filed a lawsuit to seek details about Donald Trump's mass deportation plans. A4

**THE WORLD** South Africa is denying basic needs to a group of illegal miners in a wide crackdown. A8  
**COP29** host Azerbaijan is under fire for supporting fossil fuels and suppressing dissent. A9

**THE ECONOMY** Spirit Airlines said it will continue to operate after filing for bankruptcy ahead of the holiday travel season. A13  
**The White House** under Donald Trump is expected to resume a push to remove Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac from federal control. A14

**THE REGION** Virginia's attorney general, Jason S. Miyares, will seek reelection instead of running for governor next year. B1  
**Two teenage girls** were convicted of second-degree murder in the fatal beating last year of a disabled man in Northwest Washington. B1

**STYLE** Popular shows featuring offbeat sleuths further expand how TV's female detectives can look and act. C1

**HEALTH & SCIENCE** Research suggests that more contact with nature can help the skin's microbiome and ward off disease. E1

BUSINESS NEWS.....A13  
COMICS.....C5  
OBITUARIES.....B4  
OPINION PAGES.....A15  
TELEVISION.....C4  
WORLD NEWS.....A8

CONTENT © 2024  
The Washington Post  
Year 147, No. 54040

