



Mostly sunny 77/60 • Tomorrow: Partly sunny 76/61 B20

Democracy Dies in Darkness

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2025 • \$4

Gunmen kill 6 in attack at Jerusalem bus stop



MENAHEM KAHANA/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

First responders at the scene of a shooting at the Ramot Junction in northern Jerusalem, where Israeli officials said at least six people were killed and about two dozen injured Monday morning. Israel’s domestic intelligence agency, Shin Bet, said the two attackers, who were killed at the scene, were both from villages in the occupied West Bank. **Story, A11**

Meta suppressed safety research, employees say

BY JON SWAINE
AND NAOMI NIX

At her home in western Germany, a woman told a team of visiting researchers from Meta that she did not allow her sons to interact with strangers on the social media giant’s virtual reality headsets. Then her teenage son interjected, according to two of the researchers: He frequently encountered strangers, and

Lawyers allegedly aimed to steer work on risks posed to children in VR

adults had sexually propositioned his little brother, who was younger than 10, numerous times. “I felt this deep sadness watch-

ing the mother’s response,” one of the researchers, Jason Sattizahn, told The Washington Post regarding the April 2023 conversation. “Her face in real time displayed her realization that what she thought she knew of Meta’s technology was completely wrong.” Meta had publicly committed to making child safety a top priority across its platforms. But Sattizahn and the second researcher, who specializes in

studying youths and technology, said that after the interview, their boss ordered the recording of the teen’s claims deleted, along with all written records of his comments. An internal Meta report on the research said that in general, German parents and teens feared grooming by strangers in virtual reality — but the report did not include the teen’s assertion that his younger sibling

SEE META ON A14

Trump cuts leave states in a massive budget bind

BY YASMEEN ABUTALEB
AND MAEVE RESTON

States are scrambling to prepare for an unprecedented shift of costs and responsibilities under President Donald Trump’s sweeping tax and spending plan, which will force them to make difficult decisions about cuts to state programs to offset the new financial burdens. Unlike the federal government, states must balance their budgets each year. That means deep cuts and changes to Medicaid and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) will require state legislatures and governors to cope with hundreds of millions of dollars in new costs each year. Some states are implementing cuts in anticipation of the added costs and responsibilities they will have to take on. Critics of the Trump legislation warn that projects — road and benefits programs, among others — are almost certain to be scaled back in coming years. “There’s not a single state that has the resources to make up for this. You cannot backfill it,” Maryland Gov. Wes Moore (D) said in an interview. “The federal government is now literally saying to the states, ‘You are now on your own.’”

SEE STATES ON A8



LEFT: A technician pours drinking water from a tap after the desalination process at the Agadir plant in Morocco. RIGHT: A drip irrigation system uses desalinated water to grow tomato vines.



PHOTOS BY CLEA REKHOU/FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Can seawater save parched places?

Countries like Morocco see desalination as a lifeline — but it has a cost

BY CHICO HARLAN
AND NADA TALBI

DOUIRA, MOROCCO — The drought has held its grip for seven years and counting. Scorched vegetation crinkles underfoot. The color has drained almost entirely from Morocco’s agricultural heartland, with one exception: inside vast mesh-covered agricultural enclosures, where lush to-

matoes grow on vines, destined for supermarkets in Europe. These man-made oases are being sustained not by rainfall but by seawater — filtered of salt and piped in from a plant on the coast. For decades, the process known as desalination had been the purview of the oil-rich Persian Gulf. But as droughts intensify, it is booming as a last-ditch solution for countries that had once de-

pended on — and built civilizations with — natural rainfall. The coastal plant here, the first in a wave of megaprojects, is Morocco’s bet that desalination can help preserve a way of life, including water-hungry activities like large-scale agriculture. “The most important lesson here — there is a solution to facing climate change,” said Tarik Ha-

SEE DESALINATION ON A20

Justices lift limits on immigration raids in L.A. area

JUDGE HAD DEEMED SOME STOPS UNLAWFUL

Opponents fear order opens door to racial profiling

BY JUSTIN JOUVENAL,
ARELIS R. HERNÁNDEZ
AND MARIA SACCHETTI

A divided Supreme Court on Monday lifted a ruling by a lower-court judge who placed limits on immigration raids in the Los Angeles area after finding federal agents were indiscriminately targeting people based on race and other factors.

The justices sided with the Trump administration, which argued that a temporary restraining order issued by a federal judge in California was hampering its ability to crack down on illegal migration and that the stops by authorities were not unlawful.

While the ruling only applies to counties in Southern California, immigrant advocates feared it would open the door to racial profiling of Hispanic people across the United States.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement has vowed to expand mass arrests in other sanctuary jurisdictions. On Monday, ICE officials announced the start of “Operation Midway Blitz” in Chicago and elsewhere in Illinois with the goal of detaining and deporting immigrants who commit crimes.

“This stay reaffirms what we’ve always known: lower court activist judges are trying to impede the President from lawfully carrying out the American people’s agenda,” Abigail Jackson, a Trump administration spokeswoman, said in a statement. “We look forward to full vindication on this front in short order, but in the meantime, the Trump Administration will continue fulfilling its mandate to arrest and deport criminal illegal aliens.”

The majority on the high court did not offer a rationale for the decision, which is common in cases decided on the Supreme Court’s emergency docket.

Justice Brett M. Kavanaugh wrote in a concurring opinion that illegal immigration is a

SEE COURT ON A6

ICE launches Chicago ‘blitz’ operation

BY MARIANA ALFARO,
ARELIS R. HERNÁNDEZ,
MARIANNE LEVINE
AND KIM BELLWARE

CHICAGO — The Department of Homeland Security said Monday it has launched a new immigration enforcement operation here as part of the Trump administration’s effort to target “sanctuary cities,” and immigrant advocates said several people in heavily Hispanic communities have already been detained.

The agency did not provide details of the scale or duration of the undertaking in Chicago, which will be led by Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The announcement came after President Donald Trump vowed for weeks that his administration would send federal law enforcement officers — including, potentially, National Guard troops — to the city as part of an effort to crackdown on crime.

Local officials and immigrant advocates said federal immigration officers began making arrests in Chicago on Sunday and had taken at least five people into custody, including a well-known flower vendor and people waiting at a bus stop and on the sidewalk. The advocates said there had been “an escalation” in enforcement actions and reported several sightings of ICE vehicles.

The number of reported arrests is so far relatively few, but immigrant rights advocates said the operation appears to mark a shift in ICE tactics. Before this operation, local activists said, agents had been targeted in their tactics, presenting warrants at specific homes or detaining people at immigration

SEE CHICAGO ON A4

House panel releases Epstein documents

Trove includes redacted copy of ‘birthday book’ with suggestive picture

BY KADIA GOBA

The House Oversight Committee released hundreds of pages of documents it received from sex offender Jeffrey Epstein’s estate on Monday, including a redacted version of a “birthday book” allegedly gifted to the deceased financier on his 50th birthday with messages from high-profile friends.

Earlier in the day, Democrats on the committee released portions of the book — including a suggestive picture and note allegedly drawn by President Donald Trump when he and Epstein were friends. White House officials have denied that Trump drew the sketch or signed the note.

The book contains a number of other images and messages that recount Epstein’s life and accomplishments over 238 pages. The notes include a graphic descrip-

tion of his conception, photos of Epstein with a partially nude woman and a partially redacted image of Epstein holding an oversize novelty check signed by “DJTRUMP.” A handwritten message below that image reads “Jeffrey showing early talents with money + women! Sells ‘fully depreciated’ [redacted] to Donald Trump for \$22,500.”

The White House did not immediately respond to a request for comment about the check.

House Oversight Committee Chair James Comer (R-Kentucky) attacked Democrats in a statement attached to the public release of the files.

“It’s appalling Democrats on the Oversight Committee are cherry-picking documents and politicizing information received from the Epstein Estate today,” Comer said in a statement. “Republicans are focused on running a thorough investigation to bring transparency and accountability for survivors of Epstein’s heinous crimes and the American people.”

Democrats on the committee have, meanwhile, drawn attention to the sketch and note in the

SEE EPSTEIN ON A4

IN THE NEWS

South Korea After pledging to invest hundreds of millions of dollars in the U.S., the nation is outraged by last week’s immigration raid at a Hyundai-LG plant in Georgia. **A10**
Moore campaign The Maryland governor formally launched his reelection bid while tamping down presidential speculation. **B12**

THE NATION The president cheered the cancellation of a West Point alumni event honoring Tom Hanks. **A2**
The legal battle between New York and Texas over abortion pills is intensifying. **A3**

THE WORLD France ousted another prime minister, deepening Emmanuel Macron’s political troubles. **A10**
An Australian woman received a life sentence for killing three relatives with mushrooms. **A11**

THE ECONOMY Sales of electric vehicles have surged as tax incentives are set to expire, and that means a slump is coming next, analysts say. **A13**
Business Insider pulled 40 essays tied to an apparent scheme to peddle articles written by AI. **A16**

STYLE Whether you’re watching people or primates at the zoo, parenting is a universal language. **B1**
SPORTS The Dodgers are slumping as the MLB season winds down. But how they fare in October is all baseball fans will remember. **B7**

THE REGION After a robbery, a D.C. store owner sought help. The White House sent a film crew and made a dramatic video. **B12**
The Justice Department has stopped defending the contempt conviction of trade adviser Peter Navarro amid his appeal. **B12**

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