

Partly sunny 64/47 • Tomorrow: Partly sunny 65/49 B18

Democracy Dies in Darkness

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2025 • \$4

Park Police plans major expansion of D.C. role

It will hire hundreds for goal to be city’s ‘premier law enforcement agency’

BY OLIVIA GEORGE
AND HANNAH NATANSON

The U.S. Park Police is seeking to double its ranks in D.C. over the next six months, according to documents obtained by The Washington Post detailing plans of an expansion that would bolster the federal agency’s role in the Trump administration’s crime crackdown in the nation’s capital.

The stated goal of the recruitment blitz is to establish the Park Police as “the premier law enforcement agency in D.C.” — keeping the city safe “regardless of inaction” by the local police department and local elected officials, records show. The surge unfolds as the president and Republican lawmakers continue to cast D.C. as scourged by violence and run by ill-equipped progressives.

As part of the Interior Department, the Park Police is tasked with protecting national parkland and monuments. Since President Donald Trump declared a crime emergency in D.C. in August, however, the agency has boosted its law enforcement footprint, tightened its relationship with immigration enforcement and restructured to move its leadership one step closer to the White House.

An internal document from late August that appears to outline Park Police strategy in D.C. describes officers collaborating with other agencies to execute

SEE U.S. PARK POLICE ON A15



MARTIN BERNETTI/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

U.S. strikes sow fear across Caribbean

BY AMANDA COLETTA

In Trinidad and Tobago, a Caribbean island nation so close to Venezuela that on a clear day it’s visible, the second homes off the northwestern coast lie empty. Fishers are staying close to the shore, and some have stopped working at night.

As U.S. forces launch lethal attacks on boats the Trump administration alleges are carrying illegal drugs to the United States, and the Pentagon masses fighter jets, warships and troops off the coast of Venezuela, the waters on which Trinidadians have long relied for their food, livelihoods, and leisure no longer feel safe.

Jarrood, a fisherman in the northwestern peninsula of Chaguaramas, said bookings for the croaker, King mackerel and mahi-

Attacks on boats have killed scores and are threatening fishing, shipping and tourism

Fisherman Rakesh Ramdass looks out to sea from his boat on Cedros Beach, Trinidad and Tobago, in October.

mahi fishing charters he operates have been down since the strikes began in early September. He spoke on the condition his last name be withheld for fear of retaliation.

“The general populace is a bit hesitant to go knowing that boats are being struck down,” he said. “They’re apprehensive.”

The U.S. attacks are sending waves across the Caribbean, exposing divisions between leaders on narco trafficking and raising alarms in a region where a long history of U.S. interventionism casts a shadow — even as officials acknowledge there’s little they can do to stop them.

“We are facing ... an extremely dangerous and untenable situation in the southern Caribbean,” Barbados Prime Minister Mia Mottley said Saturday. “Peace is critical to all

SEE CARIBBEAN ON A12

Caracas seeks to shore up defenses

IT PLEADS FOR HELP FROM RUSSIA, CHINA

U.S. force buildup puts pressure on Venezuela

BY ANTHONY FAIOLA,
HANNAH NATANSON,
MARY ILYUSHINA
AND ANA VANESSA HERRERO

Amid a buildup of American forces in the Caribbean, Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro is reaching out to Russia, China and Iran to enhance its worn military capabilities and solicit assistance — requesting defensive radars, aircraft repairs and potentially missiles — according to internal U.S. government documents obtained by The Washington Post.

The requests to Moscow were made in the form of a letter meant for Russian President Vladimir Putin and was intended to be delivered during a visit to the Russian capital by a senior aide in October.

Maduro, according to the documents, also composed a letter to Chinese President Xi Jinping seeking “expanded military cooperation” between their two countries to counter “the escalation between the U.S. and Venezuela.”

In the letter, Maduro asked the Chinese government to expedite Chinese companies’ production of radar detection systems, presumably so Venezuela could enhance its capabilities.

The documents say Transport

SEE VENEZUELA ON A13

At the Kennedy Center, thousands of empty seats

Ticket sales plunge since Trump takeover, a Post analysis shows

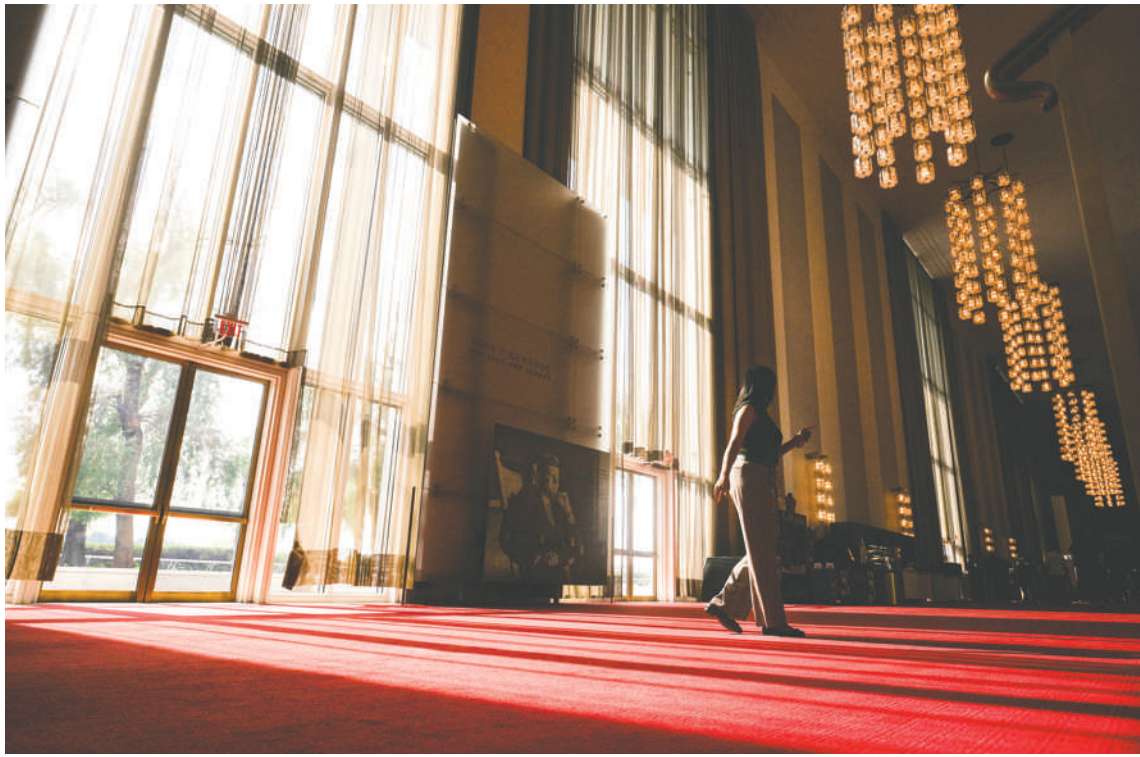
BY TRAVIS M. ANDREWS,
JEREMY B. MERRILL
AND SHELLY TAN

After President Donald Trump took over the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in February, he and the executive he put in charge repeatedly accused the institution’s former leadership of not doing the very thing they were responsible for: selling tickets.

“We had spent way too much on programming that doesn’t bring in any revenue,” Richard Grenell, a Trump ally and former ambassador to Germany, told the Washington Reporter, a conservative media outlet, in late March. According to Grenell, the center hadn’t been making money. It was too woke and niche. The new team was, in Trump’s words, going to make it “hot” again.

Nearly nine months after Trump became chair of the center and more than a month into its main season, ticket sales for the Kennedy Center’s three largest performance venues are the worst they’ve been in years, according to a Washington Post analysis of ticketing data from dozens of recent shows as well as past seasons. Tens of thousands of seats have been left empty.

Since early September, 43 percent of tickets remained unsold for the typical production. That means that, at most, 57 percent of tickets were sold for the typical production — and some tickets

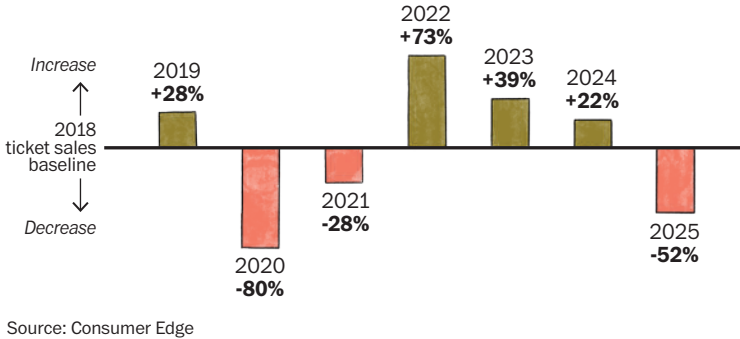


CRAIG HUDSON/FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

The grand foyer at the Kennedy Center has seen fewer visitors this fall, ticketing data reveals.

Ticket sales hit lowest point since 2020 pandemic shutdown

Credit and debit card transactions relative to 2018, from Sept. 1 to Oct. 15 each year.



Source: Consumer Edge

may have been “comps,” which are given away, often to staff members or the press. That compares with 93 percent sold or comped in fall 2024 and 80 percent in fall 2023.

The Post collected and analyzed ticket sales data from Sept. 3 to Oct. 19, which reveals an across-the-board drop-off in the center’s major theaters: the Opera House, the Concert Hall and the Eisenhower Theater. The performances included National Symphony Orchestra programs, touring Broadway musicals and dance performances.

The Kennedy Center did not respond to a request for comment.

SEE KENNEDY CENTER ON A8

SNAP backup funds should be released, judges rule

BY MARIANA ALFARO
AND JACOB BOGAGE

States could get partial payments for the nation’s largest anti-hunger program a few days late, after two federal judges ruled Friday that the Trump administration should use backup funds to keep food aid running despite the ongoing government shutdown.

The Agriculture Department had said last week that it could not use a \$5.5 billion contingency fund to pay for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program — known as SNAP or food stamps. But a federal judge in Rhode Island on Friday ordered the administration to release backup funds

for the program, which feeds about 42 million Americans a month and is set to lose funding Saturday. Another federal judge in Massachusetts directed the government to decide by Monday whether it would use the \$5.5 billion in contingency funds for food aid.

Despite the rulings, millions of Americans won’t get food assistance benefits on Saturday because the backup funds were not ordered to be released on time. States and their contractors need a few days’ notice before sending

SEE SNAP ON A6

Food aid: Roughly 1 in 8 Americans face cuts or delays this month. A6

Royals have a storied history of putting crown over family

BY KARLA ADAM

King Charles III acted briskly — as briskly as a Windsor ever does — and rather ruthlessly in dealing with his embattled brother. The king declared he was stripping Andrew of his “prince” title and that he would soon be leaving his Windsor lodgings.

The fine print — that Andrew supposedly had an ironclad lease on Royal Lodge or that as the son of Queen Elizabeth II he was born a prince — turned out to be pesky details. After days of bruising headlines, the king’s brother would henceforth be known as plain old Andrew Mountbatten

Windsor and would soon be vacating the Royal Lodge mansion. One could almost hear the moving vans idling in the press release.

“Charles is dutifully acting to preserve the monarchy and maintain its reputation by sacrificing his brother,” said royal historian Ed Owens, who added that the monarchy could have “saved itself a lot of trouble” had these actions been taken after Andrew’s ill-fated 2019 BBC interview.

SEE ROYALS ON A10

Andrew: What’s next for the former prince tarred in Epstein scandal. A9

IN THE NEWS

Ohio’s House map State officials approved new congressional lines that will boost the GOP’s chances in two more districts. A4

Vance defends comments The vice president pushed back on critics after he said that he hoped his wife, who is Hindu, would someday convert to Christianity. A2

THE NATION

New York’s attorney general is seeking to block an investigation into her office. A2
Abortion-related Medicaid cuts led clinics in Maine to stop providing primary care. A3

THE WORLD

In Tanzania, dozens have reportedly been killed in protests over this week’s election. A11
The Trump administration looks the other way as scores are killed in Sudanese violence. A11

THE ECONOMY

Fannie Mae fired over 100 for fraud, but ex-employees say they are innocent and want details on why they lost their jobs. A14
Consumers may want to pause before unplugging their TP-Link routers, which a government proposal would ban. A14

STYLE

Laurie Metcalf is staggeringly good as a flinty aunt in Broadway’s “Little Bear Ridge Road.” B1

SPORTS

The Terrapins, mired in a three-game skid that threatens their bowl chances, get no let-up with No. 2 Indiana in College Park today. B7

THE REGION

Virginia Democrats voted to advance a constitutional amendment that may allow congressional districts to be redrawn next year. B13
A teenager is charged with killing his girlfriend and shooting a congressional intern over the summer. B15

BUSINESS NEWS.....	A14
COMICS.....	B4
OBITUARIES.....	B16
OPINION PAGES.....	A16
TELEVISION.....	B6
WORLD NEWS.....	A11

CONTENT © 2025
The Washington Post
Year 148, No. 54387

