

Clinic attack inquiry focuses on bomb

Investigators in the Palm Springs fertility facility blast look into how explosives were sourced and built.

By Melody Gutierrez, Libor Jany, Paige St. John, Richard Winton and Jenny Jarvie

The suspect in Saturday's bombing at a Palm Springs fertility clinic was a rocket hobbyist with radical views and an extraordinary amount of high-range explosives that appear to have been used with precision in his attack, law enforcement sources and blast experts told The Times.

The FBI said Monday that DNA testing confirmed that the 25-year-old suspect, Guy Edward Bartkus, was killed in the explosion that tore through the American Reproductive Centers building and injured four people in the resort city. The bombing, which occurred when the clinic was closed, is being investigated as an "act of intentional terrorism."

An hour away, in the small desert town of Twentynine Palms, FBI agents continued to comb through a house that records indicate he shared with his mother, where they have recovered explosive materials, sources said. Nearby residents in the precautionary blast zone said some people were allowed to return to their homes Monday afternoon.

In the days after the bombing, it remains unclear how Bartkus acquired the massive deadly cache.

Twentynine Palms is home to the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, which is touted as the largest Marine training base in the world. A spokesperson for the Marine Corps said Bartkus had no affiliation with the military branch. Capt. Johnathon Huizar, a spokesperson for the combat center, said there is also no record of Bartkus accessing the base.

Huizar would not comment on whether there have been any recent instances of lost or stolen explosives and instead directed The Times to submit a formal records request.

In 2021, 10 pounds of plastic explosives vanished from the Twentynine Palms base during a training exercise and were suspected stolen, [See Explosives, A7]



DAVE CARESS MBARI

SCIENTISTS use the remotely operated vehicle Jason to explore Axial Seamount in the northeast Pacific.

Undersea volcano off the Northwest may erupt soon

A mysterious and highly active undersea volcano off the Pacific Coast could erupt by the end of this year, scientists say.

Nearly a mile deep and about 700 miles northwest of San Francisco, the volcano known as Axial Seamount is drawing increasing scrutiny from scientists who discovered its existence in the 1980s.

Located in a darkened part of the northeast Pacific Ocean, the submarine volcano has erupted three times since its discovery — in 1998, 2011 and 2015 — according to Bill Chadwick, a research associate at Oregon State University and an expert on the volcano.

Fortunately for residents of California, Oregon and Washington, Axial Seamount doesn't erupt explosively, so it poses zero risk of any tsunami.

The inflating Axial Seamount has drawn intense interest from scientists. They say not to worry, and here's why.

By Rong-Gong Lin II

"Mt. St. Helens, Mt. Rainier, Mt. Hood, Crater Lake — those kind of volcanoes have a lot more gas and are more explosive in general. The magma is more viscous," Chadwick said. "Axial is more like the volcanoes in Hawaii and Iceland ... less gas, the lava is very fluid, so the gas can get out without exploding."

The destructive force of explosive eruptions is legendary: When Mt. Vesuvius blew in AD 79, it wiped out the ancient Roman city of Pompeii; when Mt. St. Helens erupted in 1980, 57 people died; and when the Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai volcano in Tonga's archipelago exploded in 2022 — a once-in-a-century event — the resulting tsunami, which reached a maximum height of 72 feet, caused damage across the Pacific Ocean and [See Volcano, A12]

CBS News executive steps down

Departure follows clash over how to handle Trump's '60 Minutes' suit

By Stephen Battaglio and Meg James

Wendy McMahon is stepping down as president of CBS News and Stations, indicating deep disagreement within the company over its handling of President Trump's lawsuit against "60 Minutes."

"It's become clear that the company and I do not agree on the path forward," McMahon said in a note sent to CBS News staff Monday. "It's time for me to move on and for this organization to move forward with

new leadership."

McMahon has been firm in her position that CBS News parent Paramount Global should not settle the \$20-billion suit from Trump, which claims an October interview with his election opponent, then-Vice President Kamala Harris, was deceptively edited to help her presidential campaign.

The lawsuit is an obstacle to Paramount Global's proposed \$8-billion sale to Skydance Media. The case has gone to a mediator.

McMahon's departure is a sign that a settlement may be close. She steadfastly

backed up Bill Owens, the longtime executive producer of "60 Minutes" who resigned last month citing increased corporate interference in the program.

People inside "60 Minutes" as well as 1st Amendment experts believe Trump's demands are a shakedown with no basis in law. But the president has remained defiant, saying CBS should be punished.

McMahon was not expected to stay with CBS News after the completion of the Paramount-Skydance merger. People familiar with [See McMahon, A9]



JEMAL COUNTESS Getty Images

WENDY McMAHON had held firm against settling Trump's lawsuit.

Push for Trump's big bill to clear House

Hurdles remain as the GOP seeks a vote Thursday on measure to redo the tax code and curtail Medicaid.

By Michael Wilner

WASHINGTON — House Republican leadership is pressing ahead toward a vote on landmark legislation that would codify President Trump's agenda this week, the first major push to pass his "big, beautiful bill" since he resumed office.

The bill would overhaul the tax code and extend many of the tax cuts passed during Trump's first term, while increasing spending on defense and border security — costly policies that would be offset by new work requirements and conditions on Medicaid, cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, and the phasing out of green energy tax credits.

Success is far from guaranteed for House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-La.), who is navigating negotiations with fiscal conservatives and coastal moderates within his caucus to secure enough votes within his razor-thin majority. But the bill did take one procedural step forward Sunday night, clearing the House Budget Committee in a rare weekend vote.

Four members of that committee voted "present" and have not committed to ultimately vote in favor of the bill. Those four alone — Freedom Caucus members Reps. Chip Roy of Texas, Andrew Clyde of Georgia, Josh Brecheen of Oklahoma and Ralph Norman of South Carolina — are enough to sink the bill in a final floor vote.

More moderate Republican lawmakers from states such as California, New York and New Jersey, where residents face higher state and local taxes than in much of the rest of the country, are pushing for an increase in [See House, A6]

Venezuelans lose at high court

Justices rule Trump may deport 350,000 granted "temporary protected status" by Biden. **NATION, A5**

Dodgers faced hard decisions

With a tight race in NL West, they had to cut well-liked veterans to strengthen the roster. **SPORTS, B10**

'Sesame Street' moves to Netflix

The show will also continue to air on PBS. Streamer gets rights to develop video games. **BUSINESS, A8**

Weather
Sunny and very warm. L.A. Basin: 85/63. **B6**

Markets **A9**
Opinion Voices **A10**

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Biden cancer news, book fuel questions about 2024 bid



NAM Y. HUH Associated Press

FORMER President Biden speaks at a conference in April. He announced Sunday he has prostate cancer.

Former president's diagnosis brings fresh scrutiny on the state of his health during reelection campaign.

By Michael Wilner, Kevin Rector and Seema Mehta

WASHINGTON — The revelation that former President Biden has advanced prostate cancer generated more questions than answers on Monday, prompting debate among experts in the oncology community

over the likely progression of his disease and resurfacing concerns in Washington over his decision last year to run for reelection.

Biden's private office said Sunday afternoon that he had been diagnosed last week with an "aggressive form" of the cancer that had already spread to his bones, after urinary symptoms led to the discovery of a nodule on his prostate.

But it was not made clear whether Biden, 82, had been testing his prostate-specific antigens, known as PSA levels, during his presidency — and if so whether those results had indicated an elevated risk of cancer while he

was still in office or during his campaign for reelection.

Biden's diagnosis comes at a difficult time for the former president, as scrutiny grows over his decision to run for a second term last year — and whether it cost the Democrats the White House. Biden ultimately dropped out of the race after a devastating debate performance with Donald Trump laid bare widespread concerns over his age and health, leaving his successor on the Democratic ticket — Vice President Kamala Harris — little time to run her own campaign.

A book set to publish this [See Biden, A6]



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