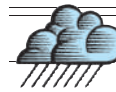


The Washington Post

Prices may vary in areas outside metropolitan Washington.

SU V1 V2 V3 V4



Rain, breezy 60/57 • Tomorrow: Rain 68/55 **B6**

Democracy Dies in Darkness

WEDNESDAY, MAY 21, 2025 • \$4

FDA might limit access to shots for coronavirus

Agency plans to approve vaccines for those over 65 or with health issues

BY RACHEL ROUBEIN AND LENA H. SUN

The Food and Drug Administration unveiled plans Tuesday to narrow its approval for updated coronavirus vaccines to older adults and people with at least one health condition that puts them at high risk for severe disease, marking a significant shift in the agency's approach to green-lighting the shots.

The new guidelines indicate that updated vaccines will probably be available in the fall for Americans over the age of 65, as well as those older than 6 months who have at least one condition putting them at higher risk of severe illness, such as people with asthma, diabetes, cancer and obesity, in addition to pregnant women. Top FDA leaders estimate more than 100 million Americans would be eligible for the shots under the new framework. In past years, the shots have been broadly recommended, including to children and generally healthy adults.

It was not immediately clear whether healthy people under 65 would be able to get the shots or whether insurers would pay for them if so. Health experts said that whether individuals outside those risk groups would have to pay out of pocket for coronavirus shots depends on how the guidelines are written, and some expressed concern that the agency was usurping the role of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"If they do not make it permissive — meaning that individuals

SEE VACCINE ON A22



LOUISE JOHNS/FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Federal worker Richard Midgette was left in despair by his firing at Yellowstone. Friend Kat Brekken answered his call for help.

'We want to put them in trauma'

MAGA figure's quote echoes as federal workers tell of panic attacks, depression, suicidal thoughts

BY WILLIAM WAN AND HANNAH NATANSON

The president had called federal employees "crooked" and "dishonest," and his deputies had vowed to purge them from government and make them suffer. And now, on the sixth day of Trump's second term, a federal health researcher was missing.

Her husband searched every room of their Baltimore townhouse, calling her name. "Caitlin?"

Caitlin Cross-Barnet had struggled with depression, and now her husband, Mike,

found her on their narrow, third-floor fire escape. As he tried to coax her back in, she replied: "It's not high enough to jump."

On the 26th day of Trump's term, Richard Midgette, 28, was fired from his IT job at Yellowstone National Park. He drove to the only bridge in his town, stopping just past its edge. From the car, he listened to the rushing of the water and, for the first time, contemplated whether to end his life.

On the 30th day of Trump's term, Monique Lockett, 53, tried to block out the stress. The U.S. DOGE Service was demanding access to sensitive databases she worked on at the Social Security Adminis-

tration. Her top boss had just been forced to resign, and rumors of layoffs were brewing. Monique settled into her cubicle just before 8 a.m., then slumped to the floor.

When Trump took office in January, 2.4 million people worked for the federal government, making it America's largest employer. In four months, Trump and a chainsaw-wielding Elon Musk have hacked off chunks of government in the name of efficiency, with tactics rarely seen in public or private industry. The cuts so far represent just 6 percent of the federal workforce, but they have effectively wiped out entire

SEE FEDERAL WORKERS ON A10

President lauds, warns 'unified' GOP on budget bill

His agenda at stake, Trump presses holdouts during Capitol Hill visit

BY CLEVE R. WOOTSON JR. AND MARIANNA SOTOMAYOR

President Donald Trump carted his bully pulpit to Capitol Hill on Tuesday, trying to persuade — and, at times, threatening — congressional holdouts to support the White House's budget bill, which could determine whether he regains the momentum he had early in his second administration or sees his agenda stall.

The massive tax and immigration bill, which is central to Trump's second-term plans, narrowly passed the House Budget Committee on Sunday and faces continued resistance both from moderates and from GOP hardliners concerned about spending. House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-Louisiana) and his leadership team must muscle the legislation through the House's historically narrow majority, where they can lose only three Republicans for a successful vote.

SEE TRUMP ON A4

GOP factions: Bill will test whether the "five families" can unite. **A8**

Trump backs off ceasefire effort after call with Putin

BY ROBYN DIXON, ELLEN FRANCIS, ANTHONY FAIOLA AND ISOBEL KOSHIW

A phone call between President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin shut down an effort to pressure Russia into an immediate ceasefire and instead opened the way for fighting to continue during lengthy negotiations — much to the con-

sternation of Ukraine and its European allies Tuesday.

Trump's unwillingness to push Russia into a truce indicated that he may be stepping away from involvement in the talks, something that his team has been flagging for weeks. Trump said Monday that the conditions for a ceasefire could only be agreed by the warring parties "because they know details of a negotiation that nobody else would be aware of."

Just over a week ago, European leaders were planning with U.S. officials to wield new sanctions against Russia if it did not agree to a ceasefire in Ukraine. But despite Trump's exhortations for months that the fighting must stop immediately, the president who once promised to end the war in a day appeared not only to sidestep the European plans, but also to abandon his own call for a swift ceasefire.

In the course of Monday's phone call, Putin managed to add a new delaying element to the process: the need for each side to draft a "memorandum" on the terms of a future peace treaty, a move that may leave Ukraine vulnerable while talks drag on.

"There is no time frame and

SEE UKRAINE ON A14

'Shadow fleet': A guide to Russia's stealthy network of cargo ships. **A14**



DEMETRIUS FREEMAN/THE WASHINGTON POST

Joe Biden's last known prostate cancer screening was in 2014, his office says, undercutting GOP speculation his team knew of diagnosis earlier. Story, A2



EDMUND D. FOUNTAIN/FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

A Project NOLA security camera keeps watch over the corner of Conti Street and Burgundy Street in New Orleans on May 8. Project NOLA buys and manages many of the cameras that the police relied on.

Camera network secretly aided New Orleans police

Authorities pause use of a facial recognition system after records requests from The Post

BY DOUGLAS MACMILLAN AND AARON SCHAFER

NEW ORLEANS — For two years, New Orleans police secretly relied on facial recognition technology to scan city streets in search of suspects, a surveillance method without a known precedent in any major American city that may violate municipal guardrails around use of the technology, an investigation by The Washington Post has found.

Police increasingly use facial recognition software to identify unknown culprits from still images, usually taken by surveillance cameras at or near the scene of a crime. New Orleans

police took this technology a step further, utilizing a private network of more than 200 facial recognition cameras to watch over the streets, constantly monitoring for wanted suspects and automatically pinging officers' mobile phones through an app to convey the names and current locations of possible matches.

This appears out of step with a 2022 city council ordinance, which limited police to using facial recognition only for searches of specific suspects in their investigations of violent crimes and never as a more generalized "surveillance tool" for tracking people in public

SEE NEW ORLEANS ON A6

IN THE NEWS

'Genocidal rhetoric' President Donald Trump plans to press South Africa's president during upcoming trade talks over the country's treatment of its White ethnic minority. **A4**

Positive perceptions Opinions of the Metro system's safety are on the rise, a poll found, in a shift driven by higher-income riders. **B1**

THE NATION Former Atlanta mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms said she will run for Georgia governor. **A3**
A report found that federal prisons failed to adequately screen inmates for colorectal cancer. **A8**

THE WORLD Britain suspended trade talks with Israel over its conduct in Gaza, adding to a growing chorus of nations that are calling for the unfettered flow of aid and an end to the war. **A12**

THE ECONOMY The Trump administration lifted a stop-work order on a massive wind project off the coast of New York. **A16**
Elon Musk, a top GOP donor in 2024 and the world's richest man, said he plans to do "a lot less" political spending going forward. **A18**

THE REGION George Washington University banned a student from campus over her call in a graduation speech for the school to divest from Israel. **B1**
A Maryland man was acquitted of murder but convicted on other counts in a shootout that left a toddler dead. **B1**

STYLE "Private Jones" and "The Nance" each won four Helen Hayes Awards, honoring the best in D.C. theater. **C2**

FOOD Ukrainian chef Yevhen Klopotenko wants to share his homeland's cuisine with the world as war rages on. **E1**

BUSINESS NEWS.....A16
COMICS.....C5
OBITUARIES.....B5
OPINION PAGES.....A19
TELEVISION.....C4
WORLD NEWS.....A12

CONTENT © 2025
The Washington Post
Year 148, No. 54223

