



Farmhands Joseph Young, Simon Peter Lowrance and Josie Parsons harvest onions at Jacob Thomas's farm in northeast Kansas.

RICKY CARIOTI/THE WASHINGTON POST

A struggling Kansas farm family digs in

The Thomases, who voted for Trump, are now grappling with deep federal cuts. They're worried.

In the dawn light at his first farmers market of the year, Jacob Thomas set out lush Bibb lettuce he'd cut just hours before, plump stalks of green and purple asparagus and coolers with 60 dozen blue and brown-speckled eggs.

Soon the downtown market would fill with customers he hadn't seen since fall, when he and his wife, Jennifer, were making ambitious plans for the future. So much now depended on these customers. The young couple had taken a 10 percent hit when the Trump administration abruptly cut \$1 billion from two programs that supplied local produce and meat to schools and food banks across the country. Robust sales

BY ANNIE GOWEN
AND RICKY CARIOTI
IN LEAVENWORTH, KAN.

here would help offset that \$8,000 loss. There have been other blows, too, which collectively have put the Thomases' small farm operation — always just barely making it — on even shakier financial footing. Plans for a new warehouse and an expansion of their farm store are up in the air because of the administration pausing, then unpasing a \$750,000 federal agriculture grant. They plowed up a spot for a new greenhouse only to learn that another grant, for \$8,000, would never come. They worry

that 2,000 chrysanthemum cuttings ordered from Canada will be ensnared in the countries' tariff dispute.

A third-generation farmer, Jacob and his family are mainstays in this community near the Fort Leavenworth Army installation where they grow vegetables on 15 acres, as well as other crops — mostly hay to feed their cattle and sheep — on more than 500 acres. On their wedding day 11 years ago, he and Jennifer rode the biggest tractor they could borrow through the main street from the chapel to the reception, the bride sitting shotgun in her flowing dress.

But a decade of farming has taken a toll, SEE FARM ON A8

DOJ backs away from reforming law enforcement

MINNEAPOLIS, LOUISVILLE DEALS ABANDONED

Days before fifth anniversary of George Floyd's death

BY MARK BERMAN
AND PERRY STEIN

The Justice Department moved Wednesday to drop police-accountability agreements with Minneapolis and Louisville, abandoning the Biden administration's attempt to reshape law enforcement in cities where high-profile killings by officers ignited widespread outrage.

Harmeet K. Dhillon, who leads the Justice Department's civil rights division, also said the government would close Biden-era

investigations of other local police departments — including in Phoenix, Memphis and Oklahoma City — and retract the government's conclusions that those agencies had violated the Constitution.

Dhillon announced the decision to back away from broader federal oversight of police just days before the fifth anniversary of George Floyd's death at the hands of officers in Minneapolis in 2020, which helped set off worldwide racial justice protests

SEE POLICE ON A2

Trump confronts leader of S. Africa over farmers

In Oval Office meeting, president pushes false claims of White genocide

BY CLEVE R. WOOTSON JR.,
MATT VISER
AND LESLEY WROUGHTON

President Donald Trump pressed South African President Cyril Ramaphosa to protect White Afrikaner farmers from violent attacks in an extraordinary Oval Office confrontation Wednesday in which it fell to others to remind Trump of the nation's long-standing epidemic of violence against

both White and Black people.

Trump amplified false claims that White Afrikaners have been victims of a genocide, even showing video of crosses and earthen mounds that he said represented more than 1,000 grave sites of murdered farmers. The mounds were in fact part of a protest against the violence, not actual graves.

Trump also made no mention of South Africa's violent and discriminatory history of White rule before the end of apartheid.

Ramaphosa stared straight ahead during the exchange, occasionally moving in his seat and

SEE SOUTH AFRICA ON A7

Papal mediator: Trump says pope could host Russia and Ukraine. **A12**

U.S. officials are ordered to interview deportees

Judge: Migrants must be given chance to challenge relocation to S. Sudan

BY MARIA SACCHETTI
AND MARIANNE LEVINE

A federal judge in Massachusetts said Wednesday that the Trump administration violated a court order by attempting to deport several migrants to South Sudan and ordered U.S. officials to interview them to determine whether they have a reasonable fear of harm if they are deported to the conflict-ridden nation.

The extraordinary outcome followed a contentious court hearing over the fate of the men from Cuba, Vietnam, Myanmar, Laos and Mexico who were hastily removed from the United States a day earlier after federal authorities determined they had committed serious crimes and their homelands would not take them back.

U.S. District Judge Brian E. Murphy wrote that the "hurried and confused" notice the federal government had given the deportees Tuesday was unreasonable. He directed authorities to conduct screenings of the men to determine if they qualify for humanitarian protection and stipulated they must have at least 72 hours' notice ahead of the inter-

view, as well as access to a lawyer, an interpreter and other accommodations.

Going forward, he wrote, the government must give detainees 10 days to challenge their removal to nations in which they are not citizens and maintain the possibility of reopening their immigration cases for additional review.

The precise number of deportees who will be granted interviews remained unclear Wednesday. The Department of Homeland Security said it deported eight men, seven of whom are not citizens of South Sudan. In his order, Murphy granted screening interviews to six men, though he did not specify which ones.

"To be clear, this is not one of those hard cases," Murphy wrote. He also said that "no reasonable interpretation" of his initial order on April 18 stipulating that the administration cannot remove migrants without sufficient notice could justify the removals Tuesday.

He wrote that the immigrants deported a day earlier "had fewer than 24 hours' notice, and zero business hours' notice, before being put on a plane and sent to a country as to which the U.S. Department of State issues the following warning: 'Do not travel to South Sudan due to crime, kidnapping, and armed conflict.'"

SEE DEPORTATIONS ON A7

Court action: Order to facilitate Venezuelan's return is upheld. **B1**

GERRY CONNOLLY 1950-2025



KAYLA BARTKOWSKI/GETTY IMAGES

Rep. Gerry Connolly, the House Oversight Committee's top Democrat, attends a meeting in March.

Congressman in federal workers' corner

Democrat also served as a driving force for Northern Va.'s transformation

BY ANUSHA MATHUR

Gerry Connolly, a Democratic congressman who played a large part in Northern Virginia's transformation from a bedroom community into a thriving technology hub and who steadfastly defended federal workers' rights in the face of Trump-era rollbacks, died May 21 at his home in Fairfax

County. He was 75.

His staff director, Jamie Smith, confirmed the death. Mr. Connolly announced in November that he had been diagnosed with esophageal cancer, just days after winning reelection to his ninth term in the House of Representatives.

As a young man, Mr. Connolly spent a decade as a Senate Foreign

Relations Committee staffer overseeing the foreign assistance program and writing the annual foreign aid authorization bill. He then entered local politics, winning election to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors in 1995

SEE CONNOLLY ON A5

'A true champion': Tributes pour in from friends and colleagues. **B1**

IN THE NEWS

A divided House Republican leaders scrambled to reach an agreement on Trump's massive tax and immigration bill as new fissures emerged among GOP factions. **A4**

Relief for Gaza About 90 trucks carrying food entered the territory, the first aid to arrive in over two months amid an Israeli blockade. **A11**

THE NATION Prosecutors are probing a nonprofit linked to Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis and his wife. **A3**
A judge chided prosecutors over their bid to dismiss a charge against Newark's mayor. **A6**

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Iran warned that nuclear talks are in jeopardy without a compromise on uranium. **A12**

THE ECONOMY Elon Musk's activity on X reflects his shift away from DOGE, with posts about his companies overtaking those about politics. **A13**
Tariff uncertainty and consumer pushback against anti-DEI efforts are hurting Target's earnings. **A14**

THE REGION Three teens involved in a robbery and shooting in D.C. had fled a Pennsylvania youth detention facility, police said. **B1**
A debate is resurfacing over whether the admissions policy at Fairfax County's Thomas Jefferson High hurts Asian Americans. **B1**

STYLE Denzel Washington became emotional after he was surprised with an honorary Palme d'Or award at Cannes. **C1**

LOCAL LIVING Martha Stewart and a Gen-Z animal obsessive have formed an unlikely friendship — and a new business.

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