

# The Washington Post

Prices may vary in areas outside metropolitan Washington.

RE V1 V2 V3 V4



Mostly sunny 79/60 • Tomorrow: Mostly sunny 81/64 **B18**

Democracy Dies in Darkness

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27, 2025 • \$4

## DOGE put Americans' data at risk, official says

He warns of vulnerability for Social Security info, but no hacking is alleged

BY MERYL KORNFIELD

The U.S. DOGE Service uploaded a copy of Americans' Social Security data to the digital cloud, risking the security of critical personal information for more than 300 million people, a whistleblower in the agency alleged.

Chief Data Officer Charles Borges raised concerns that DOGE staffers bypassed safeguards, circumvented a court order and created a copy of the Social Security Administration's entire collection of data on the U.S. public on the cloud. Borges said the SSA had no oversight of who had access to the file.

Borges did not allege that the cloud had been hacked or compromised but warned that hosting a copy of one of the government's most sensitive datasets on a cloud without security controls substantially threatened the safety of Americans' information. The data includes people's names, birth dates and other information that could be used to steal their identities. The cloud is an online storage space via a server or network of servers.

Borges's concerns were first reported by the New York Times.

DOGE's access to Social Security data has been a point of controversy since Elon Musk's group of young technologists first gained access to the agency, leading to internal clashes, The Washington Post has previously reported.

SSA spokesman Nick Perrine said the agency was "not aware of" the access. **SEE SOCIAL SECURITY ON A4**



DEMETRIUS FREEMAN/THE WASHINGTON POST

**Pastor Delonte Gholston worries that President Donald Trump's approach will erode trust between D.C. residents and local police.**

## In D.C., this isn't the help they want

BY ELLIE SILVERMAN, JUAN BENN JR. AND LAUREN LUMPKIN

The friends in Southeast Washington were gathered on the steps of their apartment complex enjoying the summer night when police swarmed.

At about midnight, more than 20 officers — representing D.C. police and at least three federal agencies — surrounded the Black teenagers and young men outside.

There were no blaring sirens or flashing lights, said Vincent Tyree, a 33-year-old father who lives in the neighborhood

Many residents are eager for less gun crime, but they say policing is only part of the answer

**Not unusual:** Killing-free periods in D.C. not as rare as Trump says. **B15**

**D.C. operation:** Trump wants wider death penalty, longer control. **B15**

and witnessed the scene. The officers did not say why they were there, Tyree said, but pointed flashlights and began asking questions. Some people pulled out their phones and hit record.

Their video of the August incident at the Renaissance Homes apartment complex — which showed one person handcuffed then released without explanation, one officer pulling his gun, and another swatting a phone away — went viral as an early indicator of police tactics in the first few days of President Donald Trump's crime crackdown in the nation's capital.

**SEE D.C. ON A8**

## Hazard looms in vise grip on Fed

TRUMP'S PUSH MAY TEST FRAIL ECONOMY

Bank official's exit would tighten president's reins

BY ANDREW ACKERMAN, EMILY DAVIES AND LIZ GOODWIN

President Donald Trump's bid to oust Federal Reserve governor Lisa Cook marks his boldest move yet to assert more control over the independent central bank. But undermining the bank's autonomy, experts say, holds potentially dangerous long-term consequences for the fragile U.S. economy.

No president has ever tried to fire a sitting Fed governor, and it is far from clear whether Trump can do so now. While the president can remove a Fed governor for good cause, Trump's allegations against Cook — including claims of past mortgage fraud — are so far unproven, and Cook's attorney said she plans to aggressively challenge the move and will file a lawsuit.

For months, Trump has demanded steep interest rate cuts that he says would juice growth, lower mortgage costs and ease the government's debt burden. He has also derided Fed Chair Jerome H. Powell as a "moron," a "numb-skull" and a "stiff" for resisting cuts. Forcing out Cook could give Trump enough votes to shift the

**SEE COOK ON A13**

**Lisa Cook:** Can the president actually fire the Fed official? **A13**

## In phone-free schools, old amusements get new shine

Throwback games bring fresh life to lunchrooms as bell-to-bell bans grow

BY MARIE-ROSE SHEINERMAN

When Bethlehem High School in Upstate New York banned students' cellphones and started offering analog entertainment, it sparked a culture change — one you could notice even with your eyes closed.

"Our cafeteria is loud again," social studies teacher David Rounds said. "And I say that in the most positive way possible."

As a growing number of states ban cellphones in public schools, some schools — such as Bethlehem High in Delmar — are experimenting with offering students old-school games and puzzles for their lunch periods. Educators say the options have helped smooth the transition to phone-free environments.

At public schools in Dayton, Ohio, lunchtime features cards, chess, checkers and classic board games, such as Pay Day. In New York, Poughkeepsie High School decked out its cafeteria with a jumbo-sized Connect Four, air hockey and old-school arcade games, like "Pac-Man" and "NBA Jam." And at Bethlehem, the

**SEE CELLPHONES ON A18**

## President's widened coalition: The 6 factions of Trumpworld

Today's GOP is held together by fealty to him, but riven by differences on immigration, tariffs, abortion and other policies

BY NATALIE ALLISON

Donald Trump widened the Republican coalition in November in a way the party hadn't seen in decades, winning support from parts of the electorate that Democrats had long taken for granted.

But as Trump has brought in more ideologically and racially diverse voters, he has made an

already strained GOP more prone to internal conflict and fundamental disagreements about what it means to be a Trump supporter.

The Washington Post identified six main factions of today's Republican Party, spanning wealthy Silicon Valley executives and health-conscious moms along with the business leaders,

antiabortion activists and budget-cutting conservatives who drove earlier eras of GOP politics.

In the first months of Trump's administration, fault lines in that coalition have repeatedly surfaced — over tariffs, the scope of deportations, federal budget cuts, and whether countries such as Ukraine and Israel should receive aid.

By force of personality and his popularity among Republican voters, Trump has held his coalition together. He celebrated a major victory last month with the passage of his One Big Beautiful Bill, which rewarded several of the party's factions as it made its way through a closely divided Congress.

Doubts remain within the par-

ty about how a coalition whose unity depends so heavily on Trump will hold together in coming years when his role changes. There is disagreement, too, about whether the wide tent is more gift or curse.

**SEE FACTIONS ON A6**

**Mortgages:** Administration wields filings against political foes. **A14**



ASHLEY LANDIS/AP

### Her engagement era

Pop superstar Taylor Swift and Kansas City Chiefs player Travis Kelce, seen in January, confirmed Tuesday that they are engaged, two years into a romance that has captivated the world. **Story, B1**

## Backed by RFK Jr. and new science, whole milk set to regain U.S. favor

BY PAIGE WINFIELD CUNNINGHAM

The U.S. government soured on whole milk a half-century ago. Now the Trump administration wants Americans to drink it up.

Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. has said for months that he wants the government to endorse full-fat dairy products, reversing its stance that Americans should consume low-fat milk and cheese to reduce their risk of heart disease, diabetes and obesity.

Federal officials are preparing to allow children to get whole milk at school and through one of the biggest food assistance programs, according to a leaked draft of the White House's "Make Our Children Healthy Again Strategy."

The embrace of whole milk fits into Kennedy's movement to "Make America Healthy Again," which challenges established nutritional thinking and promotes

food with little processing.

But unlike some of Kennedy's challenges to established science — such as promoting raw milk and blasting the childhood immunization schedule — his push for whole milk has broad and mainstream appeal. It unites the secretary's MAHA supporters, industry groups and many nutritionists, who describe the government's stance on fat as out of sync with the latest science.

New research offers mounting evidence that full-fat milk, cheese and yogurt offer their own health benefits and aren't less healthy than low-fat versions. Some experts argue that more evidence is needed before abandoning decades of guidance promoting low-fat dairy options, but others say that time has come.

"Dairy fat was given a wrongful conviction in 1980," said Dariush Mozaffarian, a cardiologist and director of Tufts University's Food

**SEE MILK ON A18**

## IN THE NEWS

**Cleanup duty** Orders for National Guard troops in D.C. have expanded in recent days to encompass "beautification" tasks such as trash removal and groundskeeping. **B15**

**World maps** The African Union wants to replace the Mercator projection, which diminishes the second-largest continent. **A10**

**THE NATION** **Authorities are** investigating a string of false reports of active shooters at U.S. colleges. **A4** **A super PAC** with \$100 million in initial funding aims to drown out critics of AI. **A5**

**THE WORLD** **Australia accused** Iran of antisemitic arson attacks and expelled its ambassador. **A11** **German officials** said a neo-Nazi heading to a women's prison had abused a gender law. **A11**

**THE ECONOMY** **AI's energy** consumption is significant, but the carbon footprint of some of our daily habits looms larger, the Climate Coach writes. **A12** **Michelle Singletary** explains how to stick to your financial convictions, even when facing social pressure. **A14**

**STYLE** **Gen Z conservatives** weren't alive in the 1980s — but they sure do love the "Reagan Bush '84" T-shirts. **B1**

**SPORTS** **For D.C. athletes,** recruiting at public high schools is an open secret, creating a system of haves and have-nots. **B7**

**THE REGION** **The Justice Department's** lawsuit against all 15 of Maryland's federal district judges was dismissed. **B15**

**FOOD** **Emma's Torch,** a cafe with locations in D.C. and New York, helps refugees find a foothold with culinary training. **E1**

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The Washington Post  
Year 148, No. 54321

