

D.C.'s deal for stadium wins final approval

\$3.7B project will return Commanders to city as RFK site is transformed

BY JENNY GATHRIGHT

The D.C. Council approved a \$3.7 billion deal Wednesday to return the Washington Commanders to D.C., giving them the final green light to build their new football stadium alongside a sprawling mixed-use development on the banks of the Anacostia River where RFK Stadium is being demolished.

The project has been a decade in the works for D.C. Mayor Muriel E. Bowser (D) and could be legacy-making for her, transforming a largely vacant and blighted 180-acre swath of the city into a full neighborhood with not only a sports venue but also entertainment, retail, housing and riverside park space. It will also return the now-Maryland-based National Football League team to the site where it had played until 1996 — against the dramatic backdrop of the Washington Monument and the U.S. Capitol, in the city its owners have described as a “spiritual home.”

Supporters say the public investment — more than \$1 billion in taxpayer funds and more than \$1 billion in tax breaks and other incentives for the Commanders — is worth it for the generational economic opportunity, while skeptics of publicly financed stadiums have questioned the return on investment and argue that the taxpayer contribution is overly generous to the team's wealthy owners.

After various attempts at last-minute adjustments that frustrated both the Commanders and the mayor's office, the council's

SEE STADIUM ON A6

60 violations in 50 days: Inside an ICE tent facility

BY DOUGLAS MACMILLAN, SAMUEL OAKFORD, N. KIRKPATRICK AND AARON SCHAFER

When the first immigrants arrived at their new detention quarters at a Texas military base this summer, they were marched onto an active construction site. Dust swirled and excavators hummed as contractors raced to build the tent encampment, where development had begun just two weeks earlier and would go on for months.

Locked up in the unfinished facility, migrants were subjected to conditions that violated at least 60 federal standards for immigrant detention, the detention oversight unit of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement found earlier this month in a contractually required inspection.

The detention center at Fort Bliss, called Camp East Montana, failed to properly monitor and treat some detainees' medical conditions, lacked basic procedures for keeping guards and detainees safe and for weeks did not provide many of them a way to contact lawyers, learn about their cases or file complaints, according to a copy of the inspection

SEE FACILITY ON A10



JIM LO SCALZO/EPA/SHUTTERSTOCK

Susan Monarez arrives to testify Wednesday before a Senate committee about her firing as CDC director after 29 days on the job.

Fired chief details vaccine pressure

BY RACHEL ROUBEIN, DAN DIAMOND AND MARIANA ALFARO

Susan Monarez, who was fired last month as director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, told senators Wednesday that Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. pressured her to support changes to the childhood vaccine schedule, subverting the agency's scientific expertise and endangering public health.

The former CDC chief, who

She testifies Kennedy told her ‘to be on board’ with childhood schedule

served in the position for only 29 days, told the Senate's health committee that Kennedy told her that “he spoke to the president every day about changing the childhood vaccine schedule” and that she “needed to be on board” with coming changes in September. The recommenda-

tions from the CDC call for administering multiple vaccines at key milestones, and potential changes to the schedule have alarmed major medical associations who worry the nation's vaccine infrastructure may crack.

Monarez's testimony on Capitol Hill marks her first public appearance since the White House fired her in late August. She told the panel she was fired for “holding the line on scientific integrity,” citing concerns about her ability to continue leading the agency while “pre-

serving evidence-based decision-making.”

Throughout the hearing, some senators critical of Kennedy, who has an extensive history of anti-vaccine advocacy, sought to highlight what they believe is at stake: the potential for infectious diseases to reemerge and erosion of trust in public health. Some Republican senators allied with Kennedy pressed Monarez on the details of her meetings with Kennedy, casting her as out of step with the Trump administration and suggesting

SEE MONAREZ ON A9

Crush of flights routinely strained National Airport

BY IAN DUNCAN, LORI ARATANI, RACHEL WEINER AND ANDREW BA TRAN

The air traffic controller at Reagan National Airport spoke rapidly, directing the nightly choreography of planes with clipped instructions. “No delay,” he told the pilots of a jetliner preparing to rev its engines for takeoff. Another plane was closing in over the Potomac River and would land on an intersecting runway just 51

Before crash, air traffic managers had urged fewer takeoffs, landings

seconds later.

At that point on Jan. 29, it was a routine evening rush at the capital's airport, with arriving airliners scheduled to touch down roughly every two minutes. But what had become routine at Na-

tional Airport posed serious safety risks, according to publicly released records that include a written warning from the Federal Aviation Administration's local managers about too many takeoffs and landings.

In the 18 minutes leading up to a midair collision of an Army Black Hawk helicopter and an American Airlines regional jet that night, the air traffic controller managed the movement of 29 separate aircraft, according to a transcript of his communications

and investigative findings. During a five-minute span within this period, according to the transcript released by the National Transportation Safety Board, he wove together six airliner departures and arrivals on two runways, while also communicating with four other aircraft.

Now the FAA's failure to act on warnings that too many planes were being squeezed into the airport has emerged as a crucial focus of investigations into the

SEE AIRPORT ON A22



AARON CHOWN/POOL/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

President Donald Trump and first lady Melania Trump walk with Britain's King Charles III and Queen Camilla on Wednesday to attend a state banquet in St. George's Hall at Windsor Castle.

Royals host Trump in state visit packed with pageantry

BY MATT VISER

WINDSOR, ENGLAND — President Donald Trump spent a pomp-filled day here at the royal family's castle, part of a historic two-day visit that he has awaited giddily, riding in a horse-drawn carriage procession, witnessing a military flyover and sitting for an opulent banquet dinner at a massive table filled with flowers and 139 candles.

It was the kind of visit he has always desired, one that placed him at the center of attention and showcased all the trappings that the British monarchy is known for.

Military members lined the carriage procession as bands played the British and American national anthems. He listened to pipes and drums, laid a wreath on the tomb of Queen Elizabeth II and watched as the Red Arrows,

the Royal Air Force display team, flew overhead and left trails of red, white and blue smoke in their wake.

The culmination of the day was a state banquet held in St. George's Hall, a long room with wooden arches and crests on the walls, as well as armor, pikes and shields throughout. At one end stands an armored figure on horseback known as “The King's Champion,” a reference to a historical figure who would ride into a banquet, throw his gauntlet down and challenge anyone to deny the authority of the new sovereign.

In a toast before the dinner, King Charles III spoke at length of the shared ties between the two countries and referred several times to the “special relationship” between them, as he mixed in a bit of flattery.

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