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The Washington Post

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RE V1 V2 V3 V4



Some sun 26/12 • Tomorrow: Variably cloudy 32/20 B20

Democracy Dies in Darkness

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2026 • \$6

'This would be the best comeback'



LISI NIESNER/REUTERS

Lindsey Vonn of the United States trains Saturday in Belluno, Italy. Vonn is competing at age 41 with a titanium replacement in her knee, and now a ruptured ACL, after nearly six years of retirement. She races Sunday. In Milan, officers deployed water cannons as demonstrations turned violent. **Story, A12, and Olympics coverage, B1**

Trump on posting video of Obamas as apes: 'I didn't make a mistake'

BY NATALIE ALLISON

ABOARD AIR FORCE ONE — President Donald Trump declined to apologize for sharing a social media video that depicted Barack and Michelle Obama as apes, saying he did not realize the image of the former president and first lady was tacked on to the end of the clip.

The president said Friday that

he had watched and passed along the video — which focused on claims of voter fraud until the final seconds of the clip — to unidentified "people" to post to his Truth Social account, but that he "didn't see the whole thing," including the brief portion that showed the heads of the Obamas edited onto the bodies of apes.

In response to a question from The Washington Post about

whether he would heed the calls of some Republicans to apologize for posting the video, which was widely condemned as racist and offensive, Trump said he would not.

"No, I didn't make a mistake," Trump said on his way to Palm Beach, Florida, for the weekend. "I look at a lot of — thousands of things. And I looked at the beginning of it. It was fine."

Trump referred to the controversial video, which was online for about 12 hours before being deleted, as "a very strong post in terms of voter fraud."

The video was posted late Thursday night. On Friday morning, White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt defended the post, decrying the "fake outrage" and saying the ape image was

SEE TRUMP ON A15

An unsolved 1971 homicide leads to a surprise DNA link

A detective stumbles onto 'case within a case' involving siblings separated for 62 years

BY PAUL DUGGAN

On a July afternoon in 1971, two boys riding a minibike in the Maryland countryside came upon a half-naked woman lying injured in a field.

She was unconscious and had trouble breathing. Her hair and fingernails were dirty, perhaps from crawling, and her sunburn indicated she'd been there for hours. She wore only a blouse and bra. Her underwear and slip were in weeds nearby but the rest of her clothes were missing. Howard County police found no handbag, no wallet, nothing with her name, and in the miles of farmland surrounding the field, they could find no witnesses.

SEE CASE ON A9

The woman was rushed to a hospital, where doctors noticed bruises darkening across her abdomen, apparently from a beating. She also had suffered a stroke. A blood clot lodged in her right carotid artery had starved her brain of oxygen.

She would linger in a coma for 54 days before dying, her identity an enduring mystery.

In 2024, a Howard County cold-case detective, Wade Zufall, took a fresh look at the old homicide, hoping DNA analysis and forensic genealogy would reveal the woman's name and lead him to a suspect.

Zufall soon figured out who she was. And in the process, he



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