



Seahawks soar to Super Bowl championship



MIKE BLAKE/REUTERS

Seahawks quarterback Sam Darnold and Coach Mike Macdonald embrace after Seattle defeated the New England Patriots, 29-13, to win Super Bowl LX on Sunday night in Santa Clara, California. Seattle was led by its dominant defense, which shut down Patriots quarterback Drake Maye. More coverage in Sports, **C1**.

Killers without a cause: New-age nihilism spreads

BY PETER WHORISKEY

Amid a wave of high-profile killings and political violence in the United States, investigators have been confounded regularly by the absence of a recognizable agenda.

The assailants in several cases — shootings, a bombing, a planned drone attack — resisted familiar labels and categories. They were not Democrat or Republican, or Islamist militant, or antifa or white supremacist.

They were something new. In their manifestos, these attackers declared their contempt for hu-

manity and a desire to see the collapse of civilization. Law enforcement officers and federal prosecutors have begun to describe these attacks as a contemporary strain of nihilism, an on-line revival of the philosophical stance that arose in the 19th century to deny the existence of moral truths and meaning in the universe.

Recent assailants who have been tagged as nihilists include the following: A 15-year-old shooter in Madison, Wisconsin, who left behind a manifesto titled “War Against Humanity” in which she described the human

race as “filth.” A 24-year-old man who plotted a drone attack to blow up the Nashville power grid was seeking to precipitate “the start of the end ... for the interconnected or otherwise globalized world.” A self-described “anti-natalist,” 25-year-old Guy Edward Bartkus, blew himself up outside an in vitro fertilization clinic in May, having argued that humans should not be brought into existence without their consent.

“Basically it comes down to: I’m angry that I exist and that nobody got my consent to bring me here,” the clinic bomber said

in a recording posted online. “There’s no way you can get consent to bring someone here, so don’t f---ing do it.”

By March, federal prosecutors had adopted the rubric, too, coining a new official term for a variety of this destruction: nihilistic violent extremism, which they defined as “criminal conduct ... in furtherance of political, social, religious goals that derive primarily from a hatred of society at large and a desire to bring about its collapse by sowing indiscriminate chaos, destruction, and social instability.” The first

SEE **NIHILISM** ON **A8**

Trump’s strategy as midterms near: Run economy hot

ADMINISTRATION HAS THREE-PRONGED PLAN

Lifting sagging consumer sentiment is key to elections

BY DAVID J. LYNCH

Amid signs that the U.S. economy may be poised to accelerate, Trump administration officials are predicting an economic boom that will lift Republican prospects in the November congressional elections.

The administration aims to run the economy hot, counting on a rare trifecta to boost growth in 2026: generous tax refunds and investment incentives, Federal Reserve interest rate cuts and the pruning of regulations that corporate groups call burdensome. Productivity gains from wider deployment of artificial intelligence will keep inflation at bay, officials said.

President Donald Trump said at a recent Cabinet meeting that the economy could hit growth

“numbers that have never been hit before.” Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent predicts a “blockbuster” 2026.

Most private sector forecasters anticipate solid growth this year and see little risk of recession. But they describe the stimulative effects of government policy as more modest and likely to be offset by drags from Trump’s immigration and tariff initiatives. Some warn that any economic liftoff will be insufficient to reverse sagging consumer sentiment before voters decide which party to back in November.

“Maybe instead of it being about 2 percent [growth], maybe we actually get to something that’s closer to 3 percent. But this is not five or seven. And honestly, for people to feel better about the

SEE **ECONOMY** ON **A5**

Rising GOP moderate is set to lead ICE hearing

Garbarino must balance questioning officials, not angering White House

BY KADIA GOBA

On Tuesday, Rep. Andrew R. Garbarino (R-New York) plans to lead what is likely to be the most contentious and closely watched hearing of his short tenure as a House committee chairman. The focus is the Trump administration’s surge in immigration enforcement in Minnesota and elsewhere that has included the shooting deaths of two people in Minneapolis by federal authorities.

The Homeland Security Com-

mittee hearing, which follows public blowback against the administration’s actions, is notable for a Republican-led House that has scaled back oversight hearings since President Donald Trump returned to office. It will be led by a chairman who also stands out — both for his rapid ascent into the ranks of House leaders and for his reputation as a moderate willing to break with his party on high-profile issues.

Garbarino, 41, faces the challenge of leading the interrogation of top immigration officials at the peril of angering the White House over Trump’s marquee policy of immigration — at a time when polls suggest a majority of voters disapprove of the president’s handling of it. Those scheduled to testify Tues-

SEE **GARBARINO** ON **A3**

Dr. Oz wants you to delay retiring. Not everyone can.

BY PAIGE WINFIELD CUNNINGHAM

Mehmet Oz, administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, is working to persuade Americans that they should postpone retirement for one year. The question is whether they’ll buy it.

He has repeatedly said delaying retirement — a fraught decision for millions, especially lower earners who have undersaved for it — marks physical vigor, and could help grow the economy or reduce the national debt.

Getting the average American to work one year longer by starting earlier or retiring later would generate about \$3 trillion for the economy because “they feel healthy, they’re vital, they feel strong, they have agency over their future,” Oz said Feb. 2 at the National Press Club.

“It’s better for society if people engage for longer,” Oz said in an interview.

The Democratic National Committee attacked Oz’s proposal in a press release the next day, suggesting he was advocating for people to work longer to help pay for

President Donald Trump’s tax and immigration bill, which added roughly \$3.4 trillion to the federal deficit.

As the political debate intensifies, salary and education are likely to deeply influence how people hear that message, research shows.

Wealthier Americans are already engaging longer. Those with college degrees and higher income tend to retire later, have more savings and live longer, researchers have found. They’re more likely to be interested in their work and see it as part of their identity.

Seventy-six percent of people with a graduate degree are still working at age 67, compared with 39 percent of people with only a high school diploma, according to the Schwartz Center for Economic Policy Analysis.

People who didn’t attend college and earn less have a vastly different experience. They’re more likely to work in physically demanding roles, retire earlier, have less savings and die sooner. They are far less likely to have the kinds of mentally stimulating, well-paid jobs that could keep

SEE **OZ** ON **A4**

Post office art galleries are being stamped out

Hundreds of historic works housed by the U.S. Postal Service have been lost, sold or destroyed

BY JACOB BOGAGE



JIMMY EMERSON/JIMMY EMERSON

Murals such as the “Massachusetts Countryside,” which was found in 2024, have been abandoned.

To lift the United States out of the Great Depression, President Franklin D. Roosevelt put Americans to work building roads and bridges, conserving forests and rivers, laying sewer pipes, and constructing schools, parks and airports.

But the U.S. needed something more, Roosevelt thought. It needed art. So his White House built a national gallery and museum, then scattered the works around the country, placing dazzling murals and sculptures in hundreds of post offices. The works brought visibility — and crucial paychecks — to the artists, and lifted morale during the depths of the Depression and the Second World War.

The vast majority of the works survive nearly a century later, but hundreds are missing or have been destroyed, sold or donated, according to U.S. Postal Service records obtained by The Washington Post. In recent years, senior postal officials weighed covering remaining images that some people find offensive — often those depicting Black labor.

SEE **MURALS** ON **A6**

IN THE NEWS

Papal pass The Vatican said Pope Leo XIV is not expected to visit the United States this year, dashing hopes of a return for the Chicago-born pontiff. **A2**

Right glittery Deborah Yanna is putting her sparkly bomber jackets on many of MAGA’s top figures. **B1**

THE NATION Savannah Guthrie offered to pay for the return of her mother, in a public message. **A2** Democrats may be kept out of a traditionally bipartisan White House gathering of governors. **A3**

THE WORLD The Trump administration’s cuts to international aid could lead to millions of deaths by 2030, a study found. **A12** Sanae Takaichi and the Liberal Democratic Party were on track for a big victory in Japan. **A11**

FINANCIAL Companies are trying to turn around souring public opinion on AI with a Super Bowl ad blitz. **A16**

STYLE A former college professor told favorite students and friend he had died with a typically blunt postcard. **B1**

SPORTS Lindsey Vonn crashes and Breezy Johnson captures gold in the Milan Cortina Olympics women’s downhill on a turbulent day for American skiers. **C1** Ilia Malinin answers the challenge and lifts the U.S. to victory in team figure skating. **C1**

LOCAL New Va. lieutenant governor Ghazala Hashmi finds peace in poetry. **C7** Two more suspects have been charged in the case of a woman who disappeared in 2023. **C7** A Md. fraud probe revealed 650 victims in a call-center scam. **C7**

BUSINESS NEWS.....A16
COMICS.....B4-5
OBITUARIES.....C11
OPINION PAGES.....A14-15
TELEVISION.....B6
WORLD NEWS.....A12

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