

The Washington Post

Prices may vary in areas outside metropolitan Washington.

RE V1 V2 V3 V4



Mostly sunny 56/36 • Tomorrow: Afternoon rain 44/38 B18

Democracy Dies in Darkness

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2026 • \$4

An Olympic shocker



WANG ZHAO/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

"QuadgOd" Ilia Malinin of the United States reacts Friday after competing in Milan, where the gold-medal favorite in the men's singles figure skating competition finished eighth after falling multiple times during the free skate. **Story, B1**

Au pair given 10-year term for role in Va. double killing

Magalhães's ex-lover Banfield has been found guilty of wife's murder

BY DAN MORSE

Juliana Peres Magalhães — a Brazilian au pair who developed a romantic relationship with her employer and helped him in a plot that ended with the murders of his wife and a man they lured to the home — was sentenced to 10 years in prison on Friday.

The term went beyond recommendations to the judge that were part of an earlier deal Magalhães had made to plead guilty in the case and testify in her employer's recent double-murder trial. That deal could have sent her home as soon as Friday.

"You do not deserve anything other than incarceration and a life of reflection on what you have done," Chief Judge Penney Azcarate said from the bench. "May it weigh heavily on your soul."

Magalhães's former lover, Brendan Banfield, was found guilty Feb. 2 of aggravated murder in the 2023 killings of his wife, Christine Banfield, and the man who came to the house, Joseph Ryan. Prosecutors showed that Banfield had plotted with Magalhães to impersonate his wife on a sexual fetish website, which lured Ryan to the Banfields' Northern Virginia home under the pretext of a sexual encounter. The plan, according to prosecutors, was to kill Christine Banfield, kill Ryan and frame him with her murder.

In the chaos of what unfolded, Brendan Banfield shot Ryan and stabbed his wife, and Magalhães shot Ryan a second time. Magalhães was initially charged with

SEE SENTENCING ON A10

DHS runs out of cash amid impasse

BY RILEY BEGGIN
AND THEODORIC MEYER

Much of the Department of Homeland Security ran out of money Saturday morning after negotiations stalled between the White House and congressional Democrats over new restrictions on federal immigration agents, and lawmakers left town without funding the department.

The shutdown, which began at 12:01 a.m., will impact about 13 percent of the federal civilian workforce, although most of the affected DHS employees are required to keep working even if they are not being paid.

Democrats demanded new restrictions on federal immigration agents in exchange for voting to

Democrats have refused funding without new limits on federal agents

fund DHS after Alex Patti was killed last month in Minneapolis. But the shutdown does not halt Immigration and Customs Enforcement or Customs and Border Protection operations because Republicans in Congress sent those agencies tens of millions of dollars in extra funding last year.

Instead, the brunt of the impact falls on other agencies within DHS, a sprawling department that includes the Transportation Security Administration, which

provides airport security, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Coast Guard.

Unlike in the final hours before many previous funding deadlines, most lawmakers were not in Washington on Friday trying to negotiate a last-minute deal. The Senate adjourned Thursday for a week-long recess after Democrats blocked consideration of a bill that would have funded DHS through Sept. 30, and some lawmakers in both parties immediately flew to Germany to attend the Munich Security Conference.

House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries (D-New York) on Friday criticized Speaker Mike Johnson (R-Louisiana) for adjourning the House rather than

SEE DHS ON A4

ICE to spend \$38B to retrofit sites for detention centers

PLANS TO ACQUIRE WAREHOUSES ACROSS U.S.

Files reveal scale and resources for massive network

BY DOUGLAS MACMILLAN
AND JONATHAN O'CONNELL

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement expects to spend \$38.3 billion on its plan to acquire warehouses across the country and retrofit them into immigrant detention centers that can hold tens of thousands of immigrants, according to agency documents provided to New Hampshire's governor and published on the state's website Thursday.

ICE plans to buy and convert 16 buildings across the country to serve as regional processing centers, each holding 1,000 to 1,500 immigrant detainees at a time, according to one of the documents, an overview of the detention plan. Another eight large-scale detention centers will hold 7,000 to 10,000 detainees at a time, and serve as "the primary locations" for interna-

tional removals.

Detainees would spend an average of three to seven days at the processing sites before being transported to the larger facilities, where they would be held about 60 days before being deported, according to the document. The additional detention space is necessary, the document states, due to ICE's hiring of more agents and an expected surge in arrests.

The documents offer the most complete picture to date of the Trump administration's plan to overhaul immigrant detention using buildings that were originally designed for industrial purposes — an expansive effort aimed at boosting ICE's ability to arrest more immigrants and deport them faster. Rather than moving people around the country to any detention center with

SEE ICE ON A9

New territory in failed bid to indict lawmakers

First time DOJ has tried to classify Trump rivals' critical speech as a crime

BY JEREMY ROECKE,
PERRY STEIN,
THEODORIC MEYER
AND SALVADOR RIZZO

The Justice Department's efforts to prosecute President Donald Trump's critics entered a new phase this week, when federal prosecutors failed to indict six Democratic lawmakers who recorded a video reminding military service members of their duty to refuse illegal orders.

Department lawyers, under pressure from the president, previously targeted several of Trump's most outspoken foes, in-

cluding former FBI director James B. Comey and New York Attorney General Letitia James. Both faced since-dismissed charges last year over alleged conduct unrelated to their political views.

But the case federal prosecutors put before a grand jury Tuesday — seeking to charge Sens. Mark Kelly (D-Arizona), Elissa Slotkin (D-Michigan) and four others over their 90-second video message — marked the first time the department has directly sought to classify critical speech from prominent Trump detractors as a crime.

Grand jurors roundly rejected the effort. The Washington Post reported. But legal observers and the lawmakers at the center of the probe have argued in the days since that the panel's decision is almost beside the point.

SEE CHARGES ON A5

ISIS suspects handed to Iraq as U.S. pursues troop withdrawal



HADI MIZBAN/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Iraqi security forces lead suspected Islamic State militants to be questioned, after their transfer from Syria to Iraq on Thursday. All the American troops in Syria could be withdrawn within months.

Trump aims to end Syria mission despite concerns of a possible resurgence

BY DAN LAMOTHE, SUSANNAH GEORGE, SUZAN HAIDAMOUS AND MUSTAFA SALIM

The U.S. military has completed the transfer of thousands of suspected Islamic State fighters to the Iraqi government, setting the stage for the expected withdrawal of many — perhaps even all — American troops from Syria within months despite concerns about the Syrian government's ability to prevent a resurgence of the group, officials familiar with the issue said.

The movement of 5,700 detainees, underway for weeks, was completed Thursday night with a flight from northeastern Syria to Iraq, U.S. military officials said in a statement. The effort signals a forthcoming end to a years-long mission overseen by the U.S.-backed Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), a Kurdish militia

group that had managed the detention facilities in territory it controlled in northeastern Syria.

The transfer began Jan. 21 as U.S. troops teamed up with SDF and Iraqi counterparts to move the detainees using aircraft and armed ground convoys. It marks one of the most significant developments in years for the remnants of the Islamic State, the militant group whose bloody campaign across Syria and Iraq resulted in a multinational military intervention beginning in 2014. A smaller number of Syrians, fewer than 2,000, are expected to remain in Syria in the SDF-run detention centers until they are turned over to the Syrian government.

Many of the detainees who have been transferred are expected to be held at the Al-Karkh prison, an Iraqi facility near Baghdad International Airport, said U.S. officials, who like some others spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive military operations. It was once called Camp Cropper and used by the U.S. military to house detainees during the Iraq War. Iraq's

SEE SYRIA ON A15

IN THE NEWS

Shake-up at HHS The White House and Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. are ousting several deputies and elevating others in hopes of stabilizing the rattled agency. A3

Lemon indictment Videos from the protest at Minnesota's Cities Church in January appear to contradict prosecutors' key claims. A2

THE NATION
The FBI provided new details in the Nancy Guthrie case and doubled the reward. A3
A man running from police was encircled and captured by a group of "organized" llamas. A12

THE WORLD
The U.S. ordered a second aircraft carrier to the Middle East as Trump presses Iran. A13
The Rio mayor handed the city's key to King Momo as the famed Carnival kicked off. A14

THE ECONOMY
Apple News received an FTC warning for "liberal bias," the latest in Trump's campaign against the media. A7
Inflation cooled more than expected in January, capping a week of promising fiscal data and easing pressure on the White House. A18

STYLE
On Valentine's Day, two couples will wed and hundreds of others will renew vows at New York's Times Square. B7
SPORTS
The geographic spread of the Olympics yielded a tale of two Games: exuberance in the Alps and mellow in Milan. B1

THE REGION
Virginia Democrats can go forward for now with a plan to favorably redraw congressional maps, the state Supreme Court decided. B13
Using a law deployed against mob bosses, D.C. filed suit against a landlord accused of leaving tenants in squalor. B13

BUSINESS NEWS.....A18
COMICS.....B10
OBITUARIES.....B16
OPINION PAGES.....A16
TELEVISION.....B12
WORLD NEWS.....A14

CONTENT © 2026

The Washington Post

Year 149, No. 5449

