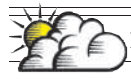


The Washington Post

Prices may vary in areas outside metropolitan Washington.

RE V1 V2 V3 V4



Partly sunny 72/51 • Tomorrow: Mostly sunny 83/66 B18

Democracy Dies in Darkness

FRIDAY, MAY 15, 2026 • \$4



Chinese leader Xi Jinping and President Donald Trump take part in a welcoming ceremony Thursday at Beijing's Great Hall of the People.

Xi warns Trump about 'conflicts' on Taiwan issue

FATE OF CONTESTED ISLAND IS TOP PRIORITY

U.S. president seeks to improve ties, cinch trade deals

BY MICHAEL BIRNBAUM, ISAAC ARNSDORF AND REBECCA TAN

BEIJING — Chinese leader Xi Jinping warned President Donald Trump on Thursday that “conflicts” could emerge if the two powers mishandle Taiwan, declaring that Beijing’s top priority in talks with the United States is the fate of the contested island long supported militarily by Washington.

Xi’s message — delivered behind closed doors in an hours-long meeting in Beijing’s Great Hall of the People — was all the more striking given Trump’s effort to warm up relations and deliver trade deals to boost the U.S. economy. It came after Xi welcomed Trump at an elaborate ceremony

overlooking Tiananmen Square, where the Chinese military crushed pro-democracy protesters in 1989.

Trump brought dozens of top U.S. business leaders with him on the trip and has made deepened trade ties a focus, downplaying the military rivalry between the two nations. Although Trump said later that the meeting was “great,” Xi’s remarks, as reported by the Chinese Foreign Ministry, made clear that the Chinese leader intended to focus on security at a moment when Trump has shown greater willingness to flex U.S. military might.

“The Taiwan question is the

SEE CHINA ON A13

Rubio: He’s banned in China, but this trick offers a workaround. **A13**

DOJ: Yale biased against Asian, White applicants

Medical school accused of discrimination after year-long investigation

BY SUSAN SVRLUGA, LAURA MECKLER AND TODD WALLACK

The Justice Department on Thursday accused Yale School of Medicine of discriminating based on race in its admissions, by favoring Black and Hispanic applicants over White and Asian ones.

The department’s allegations are based on a year-long investigation that sought to determine whether Yale’s admissions practices were in compliance with federal civil rights law. The agency determined that the medical

school “continues to intentionally discriminate against applicants based on their race,” despite a 2023 Supreme Court ruling rejecting race-conscious affirmative action in college admissions.

The department looked at median grade-point averages and standardized test scores broken down by race, and concluded that “Yale’s use of race resulted in a Black applicant being as much as 29 times higher odds of getting an interview for admission than an equally strong Asian applicant with similar academic credentials.”

The investigation did not address other factors Yale may use in admissions decisions, such as essays, transcripts, letters of recommendation and interviews. Nor did it reveal how much scores and grades weigh in the admissions process. Scores for

admitted students of all races were very high, according to the data, but there were small disparities.

The median entrance exam score for admitted Black students at Yale’s medical school last year was 518 and for 517 for Hispanic students, according to the Justice Department. The median score was 524 for both White and Asian students. The highest possible score is 528.

The median grade point average in 2025 for admitted Black students was 3.88 and 3.91 for Hispanic students. For White students, it was 3.97 and for Asians 3.98.

The department is seeking a voluntary resolution to its investigation but said that if this isn’t possible, it may seek to “compel compliance through enforcement.”

“The students admitted to Yale

School of Medicine demonstrate exceptional academic achievement and personal commitment; its program of medical education encourages curiosity and critical thinking, and its graduates go on to become leaders in clinical care, research, and public service,” Yale spokeswoman Karen Peart wrote in an email. “We will carefully review the Department of Justice’s letter. Yale School of Medicine is confident in the rigorous admissions process we follow.”

The investigation is part of the Trump administration’s aggressive effort to force changes in higher education, particularly regarding college admissions and diversity initiatives.

And it’s in keeping with ongoing efforts to bring lawsuits challenging admissions practices, such as those filed against Harvard and the University of North

SEE YALE ON A7

Mail access to abortion pill is preserved for now

BY JUSTIN JOUVENAL AND PRAVEENA SOMASUNDARAM

The Supreme Court on Thursday ruled that patients can, for now, continue to access by mail the most commonly used abortion pill, handing antiabortion advocates a defeat in their push to restrict medication abortion.

The justices paused a decision by a U.S. appeals court in New Orleans that had reinstated a requirement that patients pick up mifepristone in person, a mandate supporters of abortion rights have framed as the biggest threat to abortion access since the Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade* in 2022.

The justices did not explain their reasoning, but the decision

came over the objections of Justices Clarence Thomas and Samuel A. Alito Jr.

“The Court’s unreasoned order granting stays in this case is remarkable,” Alito wrote in his dissent. “What is at stake is the perpetration of a scheme to undermine our decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization* which restored the right of each State to decide how to regulate abortions within its borders.”

Alito was referring to the court’s decision to overturn the right to abortion four years ago. He wrote for the majority in that case.

Thomas wrote in his dissent the companies are not entitled to a stay “based on lost profits from their criminal enterprise.”

SEE COURT ON A2

Putin wearied by battlefield stalemate and sour economy

BY MARY ILYUSHINA

A lone police officer with a megaphone shouted at a confused crowd in central Moscow to disperse — the traditional Victory Day fireworks last weekend having been canceled without warning.

It was a fitting wind-down to the most muted celebration Russia had witnessed in decades. No military hardware rolled across Red Square. Few foreign guests attended. Across the Russian capital, the internet was blacked out, a move driven by fear that Ukraine could disrupt the World War II commemoration with its expanding reach of long-range drone attacks.

The deflated mood in Moscow highlighted how sustaining the war against Ukraine has grown increasingly complicated for President Vladimir Putin, who is under pressure not only from stalemate, stagnation and heavy losses on the battlefield but also from a battered economy, rising

SEE RUSSIA ON A11

A billionaire tests voters’ aversion to the ultrarich

In California, Tom Steyer faces skepticism as he runs for governor on an affordability agenda

BY PRAVEENA SOMASUNDARAM

SAN JOSE — My Mai peered through her sunglasses at the Democrat vying to become her state’s next governor and decided to be brutally honest.

“It’s hard to vote for a billionaire.”

Tom Steyer, a former hedge fund manager turned major liberal financier, had just stopped her on her walk home from lunch to make his case. The 37-year-old tattoo specialist would have been convinced more easily were it not for the contradiction weighing on her:

How could a man who can splurge millions at will serve people worried about paying their next bill?

This was the question dogging Steyer during a recent weekend of campaigning in the Bay Area to lead a state where the rich are getting richer and income inequality runs rampant.

As Steyer launched an affordability-focused bus tour trailed by an entourage of cameramen and staffers, skepticism about his

SEE STEYER ON A8



Tom Steyer at a local business in San Francisco’s Chinatown on May 2. The former hedge fund manager turned major liberal financier is running for California governor.

SARAHBETH MANEY/FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

White House move would bypass bids on arch work

BY SARAH BLASKEY AND JONATHAN O’CONNELL

The Trump administration planned to start work at the site of the president’s proposed triumphal arch by piggybacking on an existing, unrelated contract for engineering services at the White House grounds more than a mile away, emails obtained by The Washington Post show.

The move would allow the administration to bypass a potentially lengthy public bidding process, and experts said it was unusual because the arch site is on National Park Service land across the Potomac River and is not part of the White House complex.

Park Service acting director Jessica Bowron wrote to White House officials last month asking whether the agency could extend

SEE ARCH ON A2

Golf overhaul: Trump’s vision for East Potomac course revealed. **B7**

Ballroom: Construction presses forward despite legal battles. **B13**

IN THE NEWS

Redistricting wars Republican state senators in Louisiana approved a congressional map designed to give the party another seat, one of several GOP efforts in the South. **A8**

Detention centers DHS is planning to resume warehouse conversions around the country despite a watchdog probe and lawsuits. **A6**

THE NATION The House failed to advance a resolution requiring an end to the war in Iran. **A3**

JD Vance, stumping in Maine, praised Susan Collins, a moderate and occasional Trump foe. **A5**

THE WORLD At the Africa Forward summit in Nairobi, backlash against Macron’s charm offensive. **A12**

The Latvian government collapsed amid a dispute over breaches by Ukrainian drones. **A12**

THE ECONOMY Going to college works out financially for most, a report shows, but the benefits depend greatly on the types of programs students enroll in. **A18**

The Dow closed above 50,000 for the first time since the war began as a parade of companies reported fat profits. **A18**

STYLE The 25 additions to the National Recording Registry include music from Beyoncé, Taylor Swift and Weezer. **B1**

SPORTS The NFL schedule has been released, and the Washington Commanders have a brutal first two months. **B7**

THE REGION Laurel Park waited 114 years for the Preakness. But it may be a farewell as attendance dwindles and gambling increasingly moves online. **B13**

WEEKEND The best places to dine on the National Mall, whether you’re on a date or herding children.

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