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NO RUSH: Fewer people look for entry-level jobs while they get boosts in unemployment benefits, but Democrats support such “automatic stabilizers.”

ECONOMY

Biden’s boost puts small business in bind

By DAVID SHERFINSKI
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

President Biden’s push to extend supercharged unemployment benefits based on the jobless rate or other economic indicators is frustrating small-business owners who are struggling to lure employees back to the workforce. In Mr. Biden’s \$1.8 trillion “American Families Plan,” the White House says the president wants to work with Congress “to automatically adjust the length and amount of [jobless] benefits unemployed

Former workers content to stay home, collect automatic cash permanently

workers receive depending on economic conditions.” Congressional Democrats have long pushed for “automatic stabilizers” for the jobless benefits, and Mr. Biden and his administration have expressed support for the idea in the past. Small-business owners, though, say indefinite federal assistance would give people further

reason to stay out of the labor market. Congress extended a \$300-per-week federal boost to regular state unemployment benefits until early September and included one-time direct payments of up to \$1,400 for millions of Americans in Mr. Biden’s \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief package. “Extending it is just going to

perpetuate the problem,” said John Motta, chairman of the Coalition of Franchisee Associations. “I have people that you hire them today, they’ll work a day or two and then they don’t show up again — no call, no nothing.” Some restaurant owners and other service industry employers are having a hard time finding workers. Some have experimented with automation but, they say, robots can’t replace all manual labor. “There are businesses like mine that

» see **JOBS** | A6

CONGRESS

Drumbeat against Cheney grows louder



ASSOCIATED PRESS

UNPOPULAR: Rep. Liz Cheney’s days as House conference chair may be numbered. Her fate is tied to former President Donald Trump, who has been verbally sparring with her. House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, a Trump ally, was caught on a hot mic saying he’s “had it with her.”

By SETH McLAUGHLIN
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

McCarthy caught saying what many Republicans are thinking

Rep. Liz Cheney is out to prove to House Republicans that the party can make a break from former President Donald Trump and his “stolen election” claims without sacrificing their political careers. As a result, lawmakers predict her days as House conference chair are numbered, and chatter about possible replacements is on the rise. Ms. Cheney’s high-stakes

gamble appears to be coming to a head after House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, a Trump ally, was caught Tuesday in a hot-mic moment saying she has “real problems” and that he’s “had it with her.” “Well, someone just has to bring a motion, but I assume that will probably take place,” Mr. McCarthy told Fox and Friends’

host Steve Doocy. First reported by Axios, the remarks, the audio of which surfaced on social media, offered an unvarnished glimpse into Mr. McCarthy’s thinking. Mr. McCarthy was more subtle in the televised portion of the interview. He said he “heard from members concerned about her ability

to carry out the job as conference chair — to carry out the message.” “We all need to be working as one if we are able to win the majority” in the 2022 midterm elections, he said. He insisted that the rising anti-Cheney sentiment has nothing to do with her vote to impeach Mr. Trump on a charge of inciting the Jan. 6 riot at the U.S. Capitol. In response to the comments, Cheney spokesman Jeremy Adler said, “This is about whether the

» see **CHENEY** | A6

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Demoralized cops leave departments in record numbers

Crime seeps into void of police

By EMILY ZANTOW
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Police officers nationwide are turning in their badges at record rates amid budget cuts, policy changes and anti-brutality protests. An estimated 5,300 officers quit or retired from the New York Police Department last year, 200 or more cops have left the Seattle force, and in the nation’s capital, the union reports that the 3,700-strong Metropolitan Police Department is down 300 badges since the D.C. Council enacted sweeping police reforms last summer. “Officers are leaving at an alarming rate, and crime is spiking in a lot of different areas,” police union chairman Gregg Pemberton told The Washington Times on Tuesday. In Baltimore, the department has lost nearly 300 officers since last year, leaving detectives “overwhelmed with their caseload because they, too, are short-staffed,” said the leader of the local Fraternal Order of Police.

“This has a direct effect on the crime fight because there is barely enough time to answer the 911 calls, let alone look for violent offenders,” Mike Mancuso said. The mass exodus began in the months after the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis police custody last May, sparking protests over racism and police brutality across the nation, along with calls to “abolish” and “defund” the police. Paul Beakman Jr., former

» see **POLICE** | A6

Chauvin’s defense seeks mistrial over juror activity

By VALERIE RICHARDSON
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

The attorney for convicted murderer Derek Chauvin filed Tuesday for a new trial on multiple grounds and asked for a hearing on jury misconduct, a day after a juror shown in a photo wearing Black Lives Matter clothing admitted attending a pre-trial march. In his four-page motion, defense attorney Eric Nelson argued that the court “abused its discretion” by refusing to move the trial out of Minneapolis or sequester the jury, despite enormous publicity both before and after the high-profile trial last month in the death of George Floyd.

In addition, Mr. Nelson requested a “Schwartz hearing” to impeach the verdict on jury-related grounds, including juror misconduct, which could focus on whether juror Brandon Mitchell tainted the jury by failing to disclose his participation in an Aug. 28 rally in Washington. The motion did not

» see **TRIAL** | A10

PUBLIC HEALTH

Beer and Benjamins: States try incentives for vaccine holdouts

By TOM HOWELL JR.
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Still leery of the COVID-19 vaccine? State workers in Maryland will be \$100 richer if they get a shot, while Connecticut residents will be drinkin’ good in the neighborhood if they flash their vaccination card at Applebee’s and other eateries. Governors faced a gold rush in the early days of the vaccine rollout. Now they are strip-mining for what is left of demand, dangling booze, cash and other incentives to draw in holdouts. The push reflects fears that the U.S. will be unable to reach levels of immunity that can quash

» see **VACCINE** | A10



ASSOCIATED PRESS

POST-BREXIT VOYAGE: The HMS Queen Elizabeth left Portsmouth Naval Base on Saturday for exercises off Scotland before a 28-week trip through the Pacific that will take the Royal Navy to more than 40 countries.

FOREIGN POLICY

Britain sets sail for key position on world stage

Plan begins with South China Sea

By BEN WOLFGANG
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Post-Brexit Britain is thrusting itself into 21st-century great power competition with the deployment of a massive carrier strike group through Asia and the bitterly contested South China Sea this month, marking the Royal Navy’s most ambitious mission since the Falklands War of the early 1980s. It’s the clearest example to date of Prime Minister Boris Johnson’s plan to reinvent and reenergize British foreign

policy as the nation emerges from its divorce from the European Union with grand ambitions of once again becoming a major player on the world stage. Having largely played a supporting role to the U.S. in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere during the post-9/11 counterterrorism era, regional analysts say, London is turning its attention to the east as China continues its rapid ascent as a global military and economic powerhouse. Like the U.S., Australia and other allies

» see **BRITAIN** | A10

POLITICS

Grassley seeks more information on Kerry financial interests. A4

NATION

Biden wants one dose in 70% of U.S. adults by July Fourth. A7

WORLD

After Netanyahu misses deadline, rivals get turn to form coalition. A9

SPORTS

Wizards coach heaps high praise on point guard Westbrook. B10

VOLUME 39, NUMBER 89

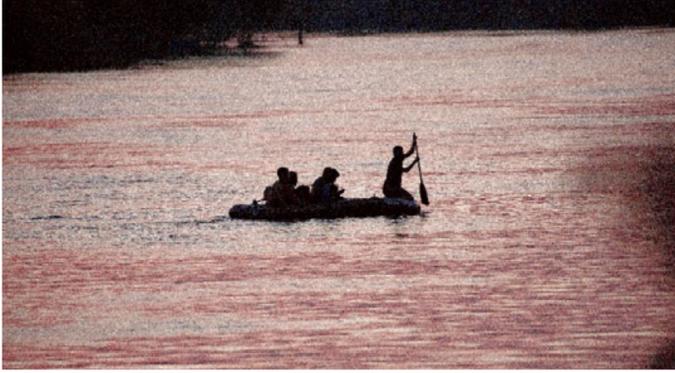




IMMIGRATION

Facebook lets users share advice on smuggling

Arizona blocked, asks Justice Department to investigate



GUIDE: Migrants crossing into the U.S. illegally can find plenty of advice on social media. Facebook says it is trying to help them stay away from "human traffickers."

By STEPHEN DINAN THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Facebook has acknowledged it allows people to share information on how to immigrate illegally or be smuggled into the U.S., saying it crafted the policy to give them a shot at asylum and prevent them from relying on human traffickers.

The company made the admission in a private letter to Arizona Attorney General Mark Brnovich. Mr. Brnovich was stunned by the revelation and wrote a letter late last week to the Justice Department. He asked U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland to open an investigation

into the social media giant and find a way to "stop its active encouragement and facilitation of illegal entry."

"Facebook's policy of allowing posts promoting human smuggling and illegal entry into the United States to regularly reach its billions of users seriously undermines the rule of law," Mr. Brnovich wrote. "The company is a direct facilitator, and thus exacerbates, the catastrophe occurring at Arizona's southern border."

He sent a letter this summer raising concerns with Facebook about its use by smugglers during the Biden border surge.

In a lengthy reply, the technology

company said it does try to remove drug trafficking content or posts "promoting human smuggling services," but added that people are free to post information about sneaking across borders illegally.

"We do allow people to share information about how to enter a country illegally or request information about how to be smuggled," wrote William Castleberry, Facebook's vice president for state public policy.

He said Facebook spoke with "human rights experts" and figured that some illegal immigrants will try to claim asylum,

» see FACEBOOK | A10

WHITE HOUSE

Police 'disgusted' with lack of Biden support

Address at memorial to the fallen only hurts morale

By JEFF MORDOCK AND MICA SOELLNER THE WASHINGTON TIMES

President Biden's relationship with America's law enforcement community has gone from bad to worse in the nearly nine months that he has occupied the Oval Office, according to veteran police officers.

Rank-and-file cops and unions that broke away from Mr. Biden to endorse President Trump say they are "disgusted" with what they see as a lack of support from the White House.

"It's been worse than I thought, especially with what I know about Biden," said Paul DiGiacomo, president of the New York City Detectives' Endowment Association.

"Biden was once a very strong supporter of the police, but he doesn't appear to be one anymore," Mr. DiGiacomo said. "Honestly, I haven't seen anything I can point to in a positive manner."

Even officers who backed Mr. Biden last year say they are frustrated with his performance on law-and-order issues.

Charles P. Wilson, chairman of the National Association of



DISILLUSIONED: Police once had a solid relationship with President Biden. As a senator, he was the driving force behind a crime bill with grant money for communities to hire more officers. Now, his lack of public praise is contributing to low morale.

Black Law Enforcement Officers, endorsed Mr. Biden personally because his organization is a non-profit and cannot back political candidates.

Mr. Wilson acknowledged that the president's lack of public praise for law enforcement is contributing to low morale at a time of record resignations and retirements from police forces.

"It's an issue the administration should address. A lot of cops — because there is such a focus on reform — think the administration point blank doesn't care

about them," he said.

Mr. Biden came face to face with the law enforcement community Saturday when he delivered remarks at the 40th annual National Peace Officers' Memorial Service outside the U.S. Capitol.

The president zeroed in on his own tragedies dealing with the deaths of his infant daughter, Naomi, in a 1972 car crash, and his elder son, Beau, of brain cancer in 2015 at the age of 46.

» see POLICE | A8



HAVING WORDS: Mr. Biden and first lady Jill Biden met with police on Saturday at the annual National Peace Officers' Memorial Service. Mr. Biden spoke about his own losses and pushed for police reform.

LABOR

Biden benefits blamed for big shortage of workers

Republicans see only incentives to stay home

By VALERIE RICHARDSON AND MICA SOELLNER THE WASHINGTON TIMES

U.S. employers are still struggling to find workers six weeks after enhanced federal jobless benefits expired, but that doesn't mean Republicans are letting President Biden off the hook.

The National Federation of Independent Business reported last week that a record 51% of small-business owners had openings in September that they could not fill, a 48-year high, even though the boost in unemployment benefits ended on Labor Day. The shortage indicates that other factors are at play.

Among them are a rash of accelerated retirements, a soaring personal savings rate, ongoing coronavirus fears and unsettled child care and schooling situations. Mr. Biden is coming under fire for vaccine mandates and juiced social welfare payments that go beyond the now-defunct Pandemic Unemployment Assistance relief.

"That's not the only thing that they added. They added a number of other welfare programs, and they got rid of the welfare-to-work requirements," House Minority Whip Steve Scalise, Louisiana Republican, said Oct. 10 on "Fox News Sunday."

Those benefits included a July increase in the

» see WORK | A8

CONGRESS

Pelosi, Schumer lose support of minorities

Polling bodes ill for Democrats

By KERY MURAKAMI THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Support among Black voters and other minorities for House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senate Majority Leader Charles E. Schumer is plummeting.

From April to September, Black support for Mrs. Pelosi and Mr. Schumer dropped from 50% to 39%, according to Pew Research polling data provided to The Washington Times.

Support among Black voters for Congress' overall Democratic leadership skidded from 82% to

59% in that time frame.

The decline mirrors Mr. Biden's waning popularity among minorities. Black respondents who approved of Mr. Biden's job performance dropped from 85% to 67% during the same five-month span. It dropped from 72% to 56% among Hispanics and 68% to 54% among Asians.

The eroding job approval for Democratic leaders follows party infighting in Washington, gridlock in Congress and the Democrats' failures to deliver

» see SUPPORT | A5



DRAGGING DOWN DEMOCRATS: Senate Majority Leader Charles Schumer and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi had the approval of 50% of Blacks polled in April. By September, that number had fallen to 39%.

BELT AND ROAD

China completes rail loop around desert

Toots horn for foreign influence

By RICHARD S. EHRLICH SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON TIMES

BANGKOK | Silk Road travelers in ancient times cursed China's largest desert as "Takla Makan," an ominous Persian-Turkic expression that translates as, roughly, "Enter and you may never return."

Undeterred by the sandstorms and merciless terrain in the oblong basin north of Tibet's glacier-packed peaks, Chinese engineers have announced the completion of the final section of a Taklamakan Desert railway loop

line, billed as the world's first to encircle a desert.

Trains have emerged as a central component of the communist leadership's push for domestic control and foreign influence. A train link to the remote Tibetan capital of Lhasa was hailed as a key step in connecting the restive region to the rest of China, and rail-building projects are featured in a number of Chinese President Xi Jinping's Belt and Road program of international infrastructure support.

» see RAIL | A8

POLITICS

Manchin leaves Biden, Democrats scrambling on climate change. A4

NATION

New Orleans port seeks to draw more cargo from competitors. A9

WORLD

U.S. officials race to rescue missionaries in kidnapped Haiti. A11

METRO

Capitol Police officer accused of helping hide rioter's role. A12

VOLUME 39, NUMBER 207





SECURITY

Pentagon app to track China's ire toward U.S.

Beijing uses tactic for manipulation

By **BILL GERTZ**
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

The Pentagon's Indo-Pacific Command recently unveiled a software application that military officials say will monitor Chinese military anger at U.S. activities in the region in a bid to reduce tensions.

Some analysts warn that the application represents a step back toward U.S. policies to appease China, whose communist leaders have used fears of upsetting Beijing to manipulate U.S. decision-makers.

The software tool is designed to systematically gauge Chinese military reactions to U.S. actions in the region, such as arms sales to Taiwan, naval and aerial maneuvers in disputed maritime zones, and congressional visits, defense officials and spokesmen said. The software measures U.S.-Chinese "strategic friction," said a defense official who spoke to Reuters aboard a flight with Deputy Defense Secretary Kathleen Hicks last week.

The computer-based software evaluates information from early 2020 on significant activities that could trigger tensions in U.S.-Chinese relations. Military leaders and Pentagon policymakers will use it to predict how Beijing will respond to U.S. actions. The software is part of the Biden administration's policy of seeking to curb Chinese aggression while preventing at all costs an open conflict between the world's two most powerful countries and two biggest economies.

"With the spectrum of conflict and the challenge sets spanning down into the gray zone, what you see is the need to be looking at a far broader set of indicators, weaving that together and then understanding the threat interaction," Ms. Hicks told Reuters in discussing the software.

An Indo-Pacific Command official said the tool will be used to avoid inadvertently provoking a conflict with China.

"U.S. Indo-Pacific Command ensures security and stability throughout the Indo-Pacific," the official told The Washington Times. The command's combined

» see **PACIFIC** | A6



ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTOGRAPHS

UNPERSUASIVE: President Biden came to office with promises of civility and bipartisanship. To get his ambitious Build Back Better act through Congress, he had little room for error and came up short of Democratic support.

CONGRESS

Democrats target Manchin, fear Biden's failure will doom midterms

By **SETH McLAUGHLIN**
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

President Biden's failure to enact his signature Build Back Better Act is casting a pall over liberal activists and Democratic leaders across the country who worry that the blown opportunity will burn them in midterm elections next year.

Most of the frustration is directed at Sen. Joe Manchin III, West Virginia Democrat, and Senate Republicans. Also simmering is an angst that Mr. Biden's inability to push the bill over the finish line fosters doubts among voters who put him in the White House and handed Democrats fragile majorities in Congress.

"It puts Democratic senators and House members in a bad space," said South Carolina state Rep. Terry Alexander.

Mr. Alexander said he had a sense of déjà vu from when President Obama and congressional Democrats refused to "take advantage of being in charge" when they controlled the levers of Washington from 2009 to 2011.

"We are losing a golden opportunity to help people in America and help this country in general," he said. "They are still kind of fumbling the ball."

» see **DEMOCRATS** | A6

Lawmakers speculate about odds of Manchin defection

By **HARIS ALIC**
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Sen. Joe Manchin III is awash in renewed speculation about his future as a Democrat after killing President Biden's economic agenda in Congress and becoming persona non grata in his party.

Talk of what lies ahead for the West Virginia moderate is increasingly a hot topic among both Republicans and Democrats. The immediate consideration for those on the right is whether Mr. Manchin can be enticed to defect and hand control of the 50-50 Senate to Republicans.

Such a feat would upend Democrats' control of Congress and make the Biden agenda all the more difficult to pass.

Sen. John Cornyn, Texas Republican and former majority whip, said Tuesday that he had privately broached the topic of



IN HIS HANDS: Sen. Joe Manchin III, West Virginia Democrat, could flip the Senate by joining the Republican Party.

a party switch directly with Mr. Manchin via phone.

"I don't know what he will decide to do. But I do know West Virginia has gotten increasingly red," Mr. Cornyn said. "I think his vote on Build Back Better is reflective of what he's hearing

» see **MANCHIN** | A6

ACCOUNTABILITY

Investigator named after \$100 billion lost to fraud

Secret Service pursues stolen pandemic relief

By **STEPHEN DINAN**
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

The government has sent nearly \$100 billion to fraudsters who filed bogus claims for COVID-19 pandemic benefits, the Secret Service said Tuesday, as it belatedly announced a national coordinator to oversee its investigative efforts.

Nearly two years after the coronavirus first slammed the U.S., the agency said its early focus on policing protective equipment fraud is giving way to investigations into the trillions of dollars Congress has allocated for relief — and the fraudsters who have scooped up much of it.

The Secret Service also acknowledged the role of criminal syndicates outside the U.S. that have been particularly active in trying to steal money. The Washington Times highlighted the issue in a report last month.

"Every state has been hit, some harder than others. The Secret Service is hitting the ground running, trying to recover everything we can, including funds stolen from both federal and state programs," said Roy Dotson, the assistant special agent in charge who was tapped to be the coordinator of the agency's anti-fraud effort.

The agency said more than 900 criminal investigations are active. So far, it has seized more than \$1.2 billion in fraudulent payments and reversed more than \$2.3 billion in automatic payments.

That is a small fraction of the agency's estimate of the nearly \$100 billion in total fraud, which is well below other estimates.

» see **FRAUD** | A7

FLORIDA

DeSantis aims to pull all state pension funds out of China

Investors accused of ties

By **JAMES VARNEY**
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis and some of his administration's top officials moved Monday to take control of the state's huge pension portfolio from private asset managers that invest heavily in communist China.

At a meeting of the State Board of Administration, Florida Chief Financial Officer Jimmy Patronis and Attorney General Ashley Moody joined Mr. DeSantis, a Republican, in a motion to "revoke all proxy voting authority that has been given to outside fund managers."

The state officials said they need to ensure that fund managers "act solely in the financial interest of the state's funds."

The measure also orders a survey of the Florida Retirement System's investments "to determine how many assets the state has in Chinese companies."

The state took action after Consumers' Research, a conservative watchdog group, launched a campaign accusing BlackRock, the world's largest investment company by assets under management, of close and growing ties with Beijing.

The bond between BlackRock CEO Larry Fink

» see **FLORIDA** | A5

ECONOMY

Too little, too late for American-made microchips

Supply interruptions in Asia to delay manufacturing well into next year

By **JEFF MORDOCK**
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Thousands of new cars are piling up at manufacturers' lots, the price of electric toothbrushes has surged, coffee machines have disappeared from store shelves, and Apple has drastically cut its iPhone production.

The global computer chip shortage is showing no signs of abating heading into 2022, and the Biden administration's proposed solution remains years away.

President Biden and his Cabinet have urged Congress to pass legislation that would invest \$52 billion to increase U.S. semiconductor chip production.

Supply interruptions have depleted consumer product inventory, and officials say domestic chip production is critical.

The bill, known as the CHIPS for America Act, passed the Senate in July with bipartisan support but stalled in

the House.

At a speech last month in Detroit, Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo implored Congress to pass the bill so the U.S. can "immediately" begin ramping up chip production.

Even if Congress does act urgently, the legislation is no quick fix, analysts say. By the time U.S. semiconductor chip manufacturing can get up to speed, the crisis will have long passed.

"The chip shortage is going to get resolved in the second half of 2022. It takes three years for a new chip [factory] to come to production," said Gaurav Gupta, vice president of semiconductors and electronics for Gartner, a technology research and consulting company.

Even if the U.S. increases production significantly, he said, it can't completely remove itself from the global supply chain. The testing and packaging are

» see **CHIPS** | A7



ASSOCIATED PRESS

LIKE WATCHING GRASS GROW: With new cars idle, U.S. automakers can't wait for President Biden's CHIPS for America Act to get factories running. Meanwhile, Tesla has found its own solution to the shortage.

POLITICS

Biden pledges better access to testing as omicron spreads. A4

NATION

High inflation squeezes holiday budgets for poorer shoppers. A8

WORLD

Putin blames U.S., allies for rising tensions across Europe. A10

METRO

Hogan wants federal lawsuit over Maryland's redrawn districts. A12

VOLUME 39, NUMBER 254

