



WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATIVE PHOTOGRAPHY

DE-BANKED: Derrick Evans, a former West Virginia lawmaker who served three months for his role in the Capitol riot, was given 30 days to empty his accounts.

CAPITOL RIOT

Banks close accounts, slam doors on rioters

Feds accused of terrorist treatment

By **KERRY PICKET**
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

People prosecuted for low-level felonies and misdemeanors such as trespassing and disorderly conduct for their involvement in the Jan. 6, 2021, storming of the U.S. Capitol say they have been blacklisted by banks and shut out of social media fundraising services.

These defendants say they have been treated like “domestic terrorists” despite convictions of relatively low-level crimes. What’s more, an attorney for defendants blames the FBI and Justice Department for prodding financial institutions to treat them like domestic terrorists.

Derrick Evans, a former West Virginia lawmaker who served three months in prison for one felony count of civil disorder, said JPMorgan Chase & Co. shut down his accounts after giving him a terrifying ultimatum. The bank sent him letters telling him that he and his wife had 30 days to empty their accounts before Chase closed the accounts.

“Getting de-banked is one of the worst experiences a person could go through. All of your auto payments cease, and you are scrambling to find a new bank so you can rejoin society,” Mr. Evans told The Washington Times.

Chase would not comment when The Times inquired about closing Mr. Evans’ accounts.

A dozen Jan. 6 defendants interviewed by The Times said they experienced similar de-banking by financial institutions, payment processing services and crowdfunding platforms.

PNC Bank said: “PNC cooperates

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INVESTIGATION

Associates profit in Hunter Biden web

By **SUSAN FERRECHIO**
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

A House investigation into President Biden’s family and the massive profits they reaped from foreign business deals is homing in on the web of business associates of Mr. Biden’s son Hunter Biden, congressional investigators say.

The investigators, who plan to follow the money, are now looking at a group of family chums, Washington insiders and foreign impresarios who helped close a series of lucrative deals.

The House Oversight and Accountability Committee is reviewing Treasury Department statements and bank accounts to track down the foreign

Money trail in foreign dealings leads to family friends, business partners

business arrangements and determine whether Mr. Biden had any knowledge or role in the schemes and whether the dealings have compromised national security.

These are the top members of Hunter Biden’s deal-making gang who are in the committee’s sights.

Eric Schwerin

Mr. Schwerin, 53, served as Hunter Biden’s business partner and close friend. He has agreed to cooperate and provide

documents to the Republican-led investigation. The business deals often involved countries where Mr. Biden led on U.S. policy as vice president in the Obama administration.

Mr. Schwerin was president of the now-defunct Rosemont Seneca Partners, an investment management firm founded by Hunter Biden that pursued deals in Ukraine, Russia, China and other countries.

Chris Heinz, a stepson of Mr. Biden’s special envoy for climate, former Sen.

John Kerry, was also a Rosemont Seneca co-founder.

Mr. Schwerin became a frequent visitor to the Obama White House after Rosemont Seneca began engaging in foreign deals. He helped the Biden family, including Mr. Biden, manage their finances.

Republicans investigating Hunter Biden and other Biden family members for evidence of influence peddling say Mr. Schwerin’s 27 White House visits during the Obama administration cast doubt on Mr. Biden’s statement in 2019 that he had “never spoken” with Hunter Biden about his son’s business dealings.

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ASSOCIATED PRESS

Southern towns ripped apart late Friday got help from volunteers ready for search and recovery efforts and assistance for displaced residents. At least 25 people were killed in what the National Weather Service said was a preliminary EF-4 tornado. Story, A6.

FIRST AMENDMENT

Judge heckled by Stanford students gives lesson on what is not free speech

By **VALERIE RICHARDSON**
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Judge Kyle Duncan of the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals delivered a lecture Friday at the University of Notre Dame about free speech and legal education without being heckled or shouted down, a dramatic departure from his experience two weeks earlier at Stanford Law School.

In his first public appearance since the Stanford melee, Judge Duncan disputed the contention that being jeered

and interrupted by about 100 students at his March 9 visit represented a legitimate free speech exercise. He called the raucous protest a “disgrace” and a “parody” of free expression.

“Let’s say the quiet part out loud: The mob came to target me because they hate my work and my ideas,” Judge Duncan, a Trump appointee, said in his Friday address at Notre Dame’s Center for Citizenship & Constitutional Government.

“None of this spectacle, this obviously public shaming, had the slightest thing to do with free speech,” he said. “It had

everything to do with intimidation. And to be clear, not intimidating me. I’m not intimidated by this. I’m a life-tenured judge. I’m going to go back to my court and keep writing opinions. No, the target of the intimidation was the protesters’ fellow students.”

He praised Stanford Law School Dean Jenny Martinez for her “extraordinary” and “profound” March 22 memo drawing a distinction between free expression and the “heckler’s veto” and outlining the

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WISCONSIN

Court race loaded with politics on abortion

Judge vocal about pro-choice stance

By **SETH McLAUGHLIN**
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

What would normally be a relatively low-key election for a seat on the Wisconsin Supreme Court has gone national as one of the candidates, Milwaukee County Judge Janet Protasiewicz, has turned it into a referendum on abortion.

She is actively campaigning on her pro-choice stance, and abortion rights supporters have flocked to her banner with hopes that she will be the deciding vote as the state tries to figure out where its abortion policy lies after the U.S. Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade last year, leaving the issue to the states.

Her rival, former state Supreme Court Justice Daniel Kelly, is pro-life but has taken a lower profile on the issue while accusing Judge Protasiewicz of injecting politics into a job that should be about the law.

“She is playing to a political base,” said Brian Fraley, a Wisconsin-based Republican Party strategist. “He’s playing to the Constitution.”

The April 4 election is shaping up as the next big test of abortion politics. The issue helped limit Democratic losses in November’s midterm congressional elections.

Locals say there is more at stake for the state’s high court, which is supposed to be nonpartisan but has been drawn into all manner of hot-button issues. A victory by Justice Kelly would preserve the court’s 4-3 ideological split in favor of conservatives. Should Judge Protasiewicz win, the balance would flip.

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AFRICA

New regimes cracking down on old dynasties

By **GEOFF HILL**
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON TIMES

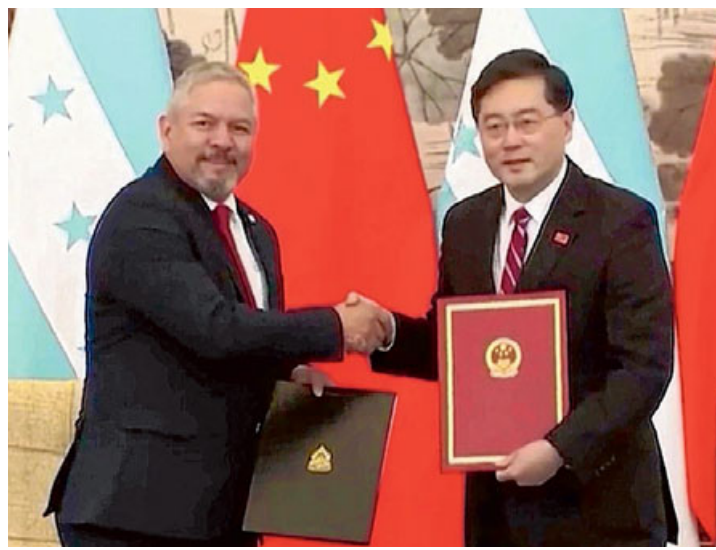
JOHANNESBURG | His father was one of the world’s most feared dictators for decades. Today, Robert Mugabe Jr. is on bail pending a return to a Zimbabwean court on a charge of damaging property that could send him to jail.

His mother, Grace, has a warrant for her arrest across the border in South Africa, where she is accused of assaulting a

woman in Johannesburg in 2017. Mrs. Mugabe has not returned to South Africa since then. Under local law, the warrant will remain active until 2037 unless the matter is resolved.

The Mugabes are not alone. In Angola, Kenya and Mozambique, members of onetime ruling dynasties are either in exile, prison or under investigation as new leaders try to claw back billions of dollars that they claim the first

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ASSOCIATED PRESS

MAKING IT OFFICIAL: Honduran Foreign Minister Eduardo Enrique Reina Garcia (left) and Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang signed a joint communique Sunday in Beijing to establish diplomatic ties.

FOREIGN RELATIONS

Honduras joins China, abandons Taiwan ties

By **GUY TAYLOR**
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Honduras on Sunday established diplomatic relations with China and ended its recognition of Taiwan, sparking outrage among Taiwanese leaders who said the Central American nation had demanded “billions of dollars” to continue backing the island democracy on the international stage.

The development expands China’s sphere of influence in

the Western Hemisphere and shrinks international support for Taiwan while U.S.-Chinese relations worsen. Some analysts have described the U.S.-Chinese battle for global influence as Cold War 2.0.

Taiwan is now recognized diplomatically by just 13 nations. Analysts say Honduras delivered a key symbolic victory to the communist regime in Beijing, which considers the independently

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POLITICS

Republicans blast Biden response to Iran-backed militias. A3

NATION

Stressed students bail out of college amid COVID pandemic. A6

WORLD

North Korea claims test of Russia-style underwater nuke. A8

SPORTS

Maryland women face South Carolina for spot in Final Four. B10

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