

8 a.m. 52°  
Noon 68°  
4 p.m. 72°  
8 p.m. 64°

High today at approx. 4 p.m. **72°**  
Precip: 0%  
Wind: SSW  
6-12 mph

**THE DISTRICT**

Voters will decide whether to approve Initiative 81, which would decriminalize "magic mushrooms." **B6**



**MARYLAND**

A lawmaker panel recommends considering a statewide use-of-force policy for police. **B6**



**OBITUARIES**

Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Jim Dwyer chronicled life in his native New York City. **B8**

**Fairfax youth center hit by outbreak**

BY JUSTIN JOUVENAL

Officials said a coronavirus outbreak has sickened more than a dozen workers and residents at Fairfax County's Juvenile Detention Center, prompting questions from staff members about the precautions taken against the virus and how its spread was handled.

Eight workers and six juveniles have tested positive for the coronavirus at the Fairfax City facility since Sept. 29, officials said, making it one of the worst known outbreaks at a local youth center since March.

Fairfax County officials notified staff and parents of the outbreak but did not publicly acknowledge it until workers re-

**Residents not previously given masks; six tested positive since Sept. 29**

ported it to The Washington Post. Three staff members said they were troubled that masks were not provided to residents before the outbreak and that classes continued at the facility after the first cases were discovered.

Robert A. Bermingham Jr., director of court services for Fairfax County's Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court, said officials work diligently to try to keep the coronavirus out of the facility. Crews' work includes taking the

temperatures of staff and residents multiple times a day, doing additional cleanings, distributing hand sanitizer, installing spit guards and observing social distancing when possible.

New arrivals at the center are quarantined before being introduced to the general population. The center has suspended family visits but does allow lawyers, probation officers and social workers to schedule visits.

"Every measure the Health Department has recommended putting in place to mitigate the spread within the facility we've put into place," Bermingham said.

Bermingham said it was accurate that masks were not provided. **SEE FAIRFAX ON B4**

**Region's new infections at 19-day high**

BY LOLA FADULU, ERIN COX, GREGORY S. SCHNEIDER AND RACHEL CHASON

The average number of new daily coronavirus infections across the greater Washington region reached a 19-day high Thursday as local health officials sent an open letter urging people connected to a White House outbreak to get tested.

Despite the rise, officials have cautioned that there's no evidence of widespread ties to the Sept. 26 Rose Garden event suspected of being at the center of the outbreak. An infection spike stemming from a reporting issue Thursday lifted the number of confirmed cases in D.C., Virginia

**Officials urge attendees of White House event to get tested for coronavirus**

and Maryland above 300,000 since the start of the pandemic.

D.C. Health Director LaQuandra Nesbitt and health officers from nine other counties and cities across the Washington region sent a letter Thursday to "community members" asking anyone who worked in the White House in the past two weeks to get tested. In addition, it asked that people be tested who attended the Rose Garden event or who had **SEE REGION ON B4**

**New cases in region**

Through 5 p.m. Thursday, 2,673 new coronavirus cases were reported in the District, Maryland and Virginia, bringing the total number of cases to 300,725.

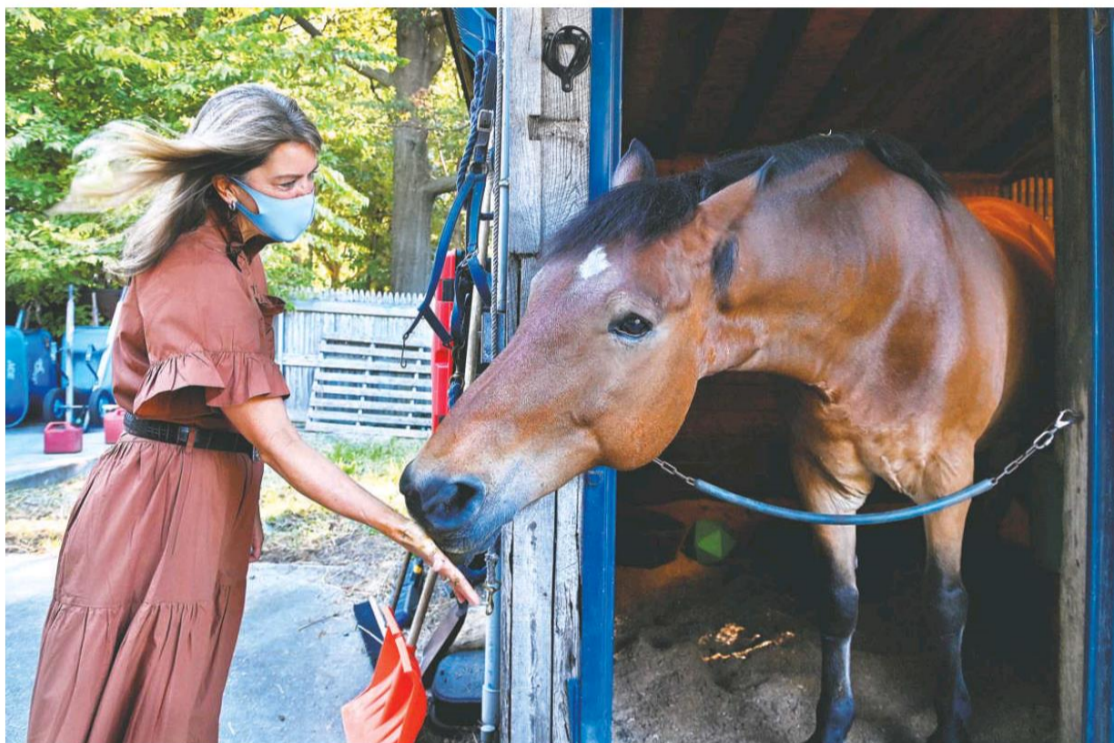
D.C.	MD.	VA.**
+68	+761	+1,844
15,765	129,425	155,535

**Coronavirus-related deaths**

As of 5 p.m. Thursday:

D.C.	MD.*	VA.
+2	+6	+25
634	3,979	3,328

\* Includes probable covid-19 deaths  
\*\* Includes 689 cases that went unreported Wednesday.



MICHAEL S. WILLIAMSON/THE WASHINGTON POST

**A stable new home**

Mall eyesore is being replaced with modern complex that will allow interaction with Park Police horses

BY MICHAEL E. RUANE

Tedi, the horse, was upset. He was a 10-year veteran of the U.S. Park Police mounted unit. He had spent a decade of hot summer days on the Mall, cold winters on the streets, and time in the shabby stables off Independence Avenue.

In the next stall was Chief, a former hunt club horse, who had worked at a spa in Virginia, donated to the force by a local philanthropist a year or so ago.

So Wednesday morning, when officials came to announce that new stables were going to be built on the site, and the VIPs

fawned over Chief, Tedi began kicking the wall of his stall.

He took a drink of water and dribbled it on the pavement. He craned his neck and eyed Chief. He made such a fuss that Officer Roy Williams Jr. had to move him a few stalls away. "He's not happy," Williams said.

But Tedi was alone in his agitation Wednesday, as government officials and executives of the Trust for the National Mall broke ground on the \$15 million high-tech stables complex and education center.

The project is designed to replace the current stables of wood and shingle, surrounded by a stockade fence, that have been

an eyesore on the Mall since they were erected for the nation's bicentennial 44 years ago.

"Why should [the horses] live in uncle puppy's pig farm?" said Lt. Denise Maradiga, a former commander of the Park Police mounted unit and longtime horse owner who lobbied for the new complex. They deserved better.

"This is one of the highlights of my career," she said. "I've been a horse person my entire life. I've got over 30 years in law enforcement. And to be able to bring those two things together, I'm just absolutely thrilled."

**SEE STABLES ON B2**

Suzanne Youngkin, one of the principal supporters of the new stable complex, gets a licking from Tedi after she gave the horse a mint. The Trust for the National Mall held a groundbreaking ceremony on the Mall on Thursday to replace the wood-and-shingle stables erected for the nation's bicentennial 44 years ago with a \$15 million high-tech complex and education center.

**Magnet school entry test is over**

**NO ACTION TAKEN ON PROPOSED LOTTERY**

Sought to boost diversity at Va. STEM academy

BY HANNAH NATANSON

The famed — and feared — admissions test at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, a prestigious magnet school in Northern Virginia, is no more.

The Fairfax County Public Schools Board on Thursday night gave the green light to a proposal, submitted by Superintendent Scott Brabrand, that eliminates the test and the \$100 application fee, long staples of the admissions process at Thomas Jefferson. His proposal also increases the size of the school, known as TJ.

The changes take effect immediately, meaning this year's crop of eighth-graders — many of whom have spent months, if not years, preparing for the test — will not sit down this fall to take the two-part exam on math, reading and science.

But the board did not take action on a more controversial part of the superintendent's proposal: his suggestion that Fairfax assign 400 of 500 spots in TJ's classes by a "merit-based lottery." That strategy, meant to boost the number of Black and Hispanic students after decades of extremely low enrollment, would allow any students from five geographical areas to enter a lottery for seats at the school, provided they meet certain academic qualifications: a 3.5 GPA and enrollment in Algebra I.

At the meeting Thursday, Brabrand vowed he would debut an altered plan to the board by November.

"We will be presenting a revised admissions process to you **SEE ADMISSIONS ON B5**

**Unlike the White House, D.C. has been crushing it**



Petula Dvorak

Only one thing has united D.C. residents as much as a national trophy from the Nats, Mystics or Caps.

Covid-19.

This town has nearly unanimously hunkered down and obeyed the pandemic rules. Masks, social distancing, missing out on school, work, weddings, vacations, reunions, funerals and graduations have been the way of life in the nation's

capital for most of 2020.

Except at one address: 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW.

The White House has become a coronavirus hot spot. It's our very own Wuthan on the Potomac.

Despite D.C.'s rules banning gatherings of more than 50 people, the White House has hosted more than one event larger than that, including the campaign rally masquerading as a Republican National Convention speech with more than 1,500 people on the South **SEE DVORAK ON B3**



JABIN BOTSFORD/THE WASHINGTON POST

Over 150 people attended the announcement of President Trump's Supreme Court nominee. At least nine have since tested positive.

**Trump tweets at Va. as campaign stays quiet**

BY LAURA VOZZELLA

RICHMOND — It was not yet 7 a.m. and the leader of the free world, still hospitalized with the coronavirus, was thinking about Virginia, an increasingly blue state where his campaign hasn't been willing to bankroll ads on TV.

"Virginia Voters! Your Governor wants to obliterate your Second Amendment. I have stopped him," President Trump declared Monday at 6:45 a.m., in his third tweet of the day from

Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. "I am the only thing between you and your Second Amendment. Working hard in Virginia. It's IN PLAY."

Back at the White House early the next morning, Virginia was again on Trump's mind and Twitter feed, with a swipe at Gov. Ralph Northam (D). On Thursday, in his first interview since his diagnosis, Trump again invoked the governor, a proponent of coronavirus precautions who is also recovering from the virus. **SEE TRUMP ON B5**

# Park Police horses getting more modern home on the Mall

STABLES FROM B1

"I know what the horses have to offer," she added. "I think it's going to be such a big draw. They are the most fantastic ambassadors . . . especially in a time when people don't have so much love for the police."

"I can't think of another law enforcement vehicle that has the ability to touch people's hearts," she said.

The horses are all donated, officials said. They are then selected for their ability to deal with the public and trained to handle an array of situations, from routine patrol to demonstrations.

Height is a plus, Williams said. One horse present Wednesday was a magnificent gray/white mare named Delilah, who is about six feet tall at the shoulders.

Despite the training, some horses retain minor phobias. Tedi, for example, is still uneasy around big trucks, Williams said.

The facility will be built at the location of the existing stables, between the Korean War Memorial and the D.C. War Memorial on the south side of the Mall.

The old stables will be torn down and replaced with a modern facility that will have areas for public interaction with the animals, a heated wash and equipment room, a medical paddock, and an office building for the officers.

It will also have public restrooms — always welcome on the Mall — and two public viewing paddocks.

New stables have been on the Park Service wish list for 10 years, officials said. But it was not until the project caught the eye of the Trust for the National Mall, the Mall's nonprofit fundraising partner, that it took off.

"When I first joined the trust, which was eight years ago, the first week I was there I came over here and kind of let myself in," Teresa Durkin, the Trust's executive vice president, said Wednesday.

"Then I heard this voice, 'Can I help you, ma'am?'" she said. She identified herself and took a look around. "We knew this was a project that needed to be done, and anyone who comes here knows immediately why."

The facility has had problems with flies, wasps and



A rendering of the new U.S. Park Police Horse Stables and Education Center on the Mall. The facility will be built at the location of the existing stables, between the Korean War Memorial and the D.C. War Memorial on the south side of the Mall and include a heated wash and equipment room, a medical paddock and an office building.

rodents, Maradiaga said. A cylinder of flypaper covered with insects hung from an overhang. And bird droppings stained some of the rafters.

A red-and-white sign reading "Restricted Area Do Not Enter" was posted at the facility's entrance, where the VIPs gathered to celebrate.

Construction is expected to begin in the next few months, Durkin said, and the complex should be finished in a year. "If it's going to be built by this time next year, it's got to start right away."

Philanthropist Sheila C. Johnson, vice chair of the Trust's board, chair of the campaign to fund the stables and Chief's former owner, said



Philanthropist Sheila C. Johnson waves as she saw an acquaintance just before the start of the groundbreaking ceremony on the Mall.

the Trust has raised \$13 million of \$15 million the project needs.

"We still want to continue to raise the maintenance fund, so that we will never have to worry about maintenance issues," she said.

"We're still \$2 million short," she said. "The price tag keeps going up, because of covid [and] the costs have gone up. . . I'm reaching out to people who want to continue to support us. . . I don't care how much they're willing to give."

When Johnson stepped to the podium to mark the groundbreaking, she said, "I'm a little emotional today. . . This project is so close to my heart."

She said she has long been close to the equestrian community, which has "been a positive force . . . in our family life."

She thanked all those who had contributed, and predicted that the new complex would be "a game changer" on the Mall.

She also mentioned "my buddy, Chief."

"If you had seen his face when I put him in the trailer" at her Salamander Resort in Middleburg, Va., to join the Park Police, she said.

"He was like, 'Wait. I have been at a spa these last few years. I don't understand where I'm going,'" she said.

"I said, 'You know, you've got a higher calling.'"

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## THE DISTRICT

# Study: Small group of D.C. landlords behind nearly 50 percent of evictions

Filings used as tactic to squeeze tenants for rent, Georgetown paper says

BY KYLE SWENSON

A small group of property owners who collectively hold 21 percent of the District's rental market is responsible for nearly 50 percent of the city's eviction filings, according to a report released Thursday by Georgetown University's McCourt School of Public Policy.

In the report, "Eviction in Washington, DC: Racial and Geographic Disparities in Housing Instability," researchers Eva Rosen and Brian McCabe uncovered patterns in the city's eviction data for 2014 to 2018. In that period, an average of 32,000 evictions were filed annually, almost all of them for nonpayment of rent.

But not all of those filings led to tenants being turned out of their homes. The report details how some landlords use eviction filings as a way to squeeze tenants for rent.

In 2018, 5.5 percent of filed evictions led to executed evictions — meaning that renters were actually removed from the property. About 70 percent of the annual filings are dismissed in court, according to Rosen and McCabe, indicating that the tenant paid or the landlord had no proof to carry the case to judg-

ment.

"Landlords are using eviction as a tactic," said Rosen, an assistant professor at Georgetown's McCourt School. "Most of the time, when they are filing, they are not expecting it is going to result in eviction. They are trying to sort of get the state and courts behind their claim for the rent that is owed and push the tenant to find a new way to get the money, whether it's from a church or a friend or a family member."

Such tactics are used more heavily in the District's poorest neighborhoods. The report presents a vivid snapshot of the inequalities within the city's housing market. In 2018, according to the report, 11 out of every 100 renters in D.C. experienced an eviction filing. In Wards 7 and 8, however, 20 out of 100 and 25 out of 100 experienced eviction, respectively.

The disproportionate use of eviction filings by a small number of landlords is also more pronounced in Wards 7 and 8, the report notes. In 2018, 47 percent of all filings in the city that year were tied to 20 landlords, who together owned 21 percent of the rental market. But in Wards 7 and 8, "the 10 landlords with the largest number of eviction filings were responsible for 50 percent of all eviction filings," the report states. "However, they only owned 30 percent of the rental units."

One reason for the volume of filings is the cheap cost of eviction paperwork in Washington, the re-



A report on D.C. evictions data from 2014 to 2018 found that a small group of landlords who own 21 percent of the rental market filed on average 32,000 evictions yearly, most for nonpayment of rent.

searchers argue. According to the paper, it costs \$15 to file an eviction, the lowest among the largest 50 American cities. "The barrier to eviction is too low here, and it allows [landlords] to misuse the court system as a money-collection agency," Rosen said.

The researchers say the patterns they found in the data for 2014 to 2018 probably remain in effect today and that the dispari-

ties in eviction rates among the wards have probably widened because of the economic downturn caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

These findings are more detailed than many eviction studies because of a unique data-sharing agreement between the researchers and the city. "In a lot of places, you just don't have the sort of fine-grained data to do the work

that we were able to do," said McCabe, an associate professor of sociology at Georgetown.

Under their agreement with the city, Rosen and McCabe cannot publicly name the landlords.

Amanda Korber, the head of the housing law unit at the Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia, said the report tracks with her own work, particularly "the idea that eviction is used as a

debt collection tactic."

She cited her experience with landlords who are quick to file and often over small amounts of money.

"We see a lot of cases where just a few days after the rent is due they'll sue, even before the month is over," she said. "It's pretty clear it's an attempt to get tenants to pay up faster. 'Why not file if you want to get your money as soon as possible,' I'm sure is what many landlords are thinking."

The researchers briefed D.C. Council Chairman Phil Mendelson (D) on their findings a few weeks ago. The report "heavily influenced" his thinking, he said Thursday. Mendelson and Ward 3 council member Mary M. Cheh (D) co-sponsored temporary legislation this week that blocks landlords from evicting tenants for less than \$600 in unpaid rent, seals court records for eviction filings that do not lead to judgments, and urges the court to raise the eviction filing fee to \$100.

"Let me be clear, in my view, if a person isn't paying the rent and they are a scofflaw, they should be evicted," Mendelson said. "But it's clear there's a lot of filing going on where it isn't the landlord's goal to get rid of nonpaying tenants."

He supports further scrutiny of the disproportionate use of eviction filings by a small number of landlords. "I think the council should look at it, I think the courts should look at it, and I think [the D.C. Department of Housing] should look at it," Mendelson said.

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