

# The Washington Post

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SU V1 V2 V3 V4

Some morning rain 56/39 • Tomorrow: Sunny 56/43 B6 Democracy Dies in Darkness FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2022 • \$3

## Germans probe ties to Russian gas, cash

Murky foundation shows Moscow's influence on state's energy policies

BY LOVEDAY MORRIS, KATE BRADY AND SOUAD MEKHENNET

SCHWERIN, GERMANY — When Matthias Warnig, chief executive of the company building the Nord Stream 2 natural gas pipeline between Russia and Germany, arrived for a meeting at the historic lakeside state chancellery building here, he carried a bright bouquet of flowers.

It was August 2020 and Trump administration sanctions on the nearly constructed pipeline under the Baltic Sea had caused final work on the project to grind to a halt. Warnig, a former officer in the Stasi, East Germany's secret police, was looking for ways around the U.S. action.

His quest — and his gift of sunflowers and snapdragons — found a receptive audience.

"It is outrageous," Manuela Schwesig, head of the German state of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, said of the U.S. move to target any firm helping to complete the pipeline. Two gas routes — Nord Stream 1 and 2 — came ashore in her northern German state.

"But," Schwesig continued after her meeting with Warnig, "I'm confident we'll find a solution."

The eventual solution was the creation by the state government of an opaque, largely Russian-funded climate foundation designed to complete the construction while shielding the firms it contracted with from U.S. sanctions. The expectation was that a German state entity would not be put under U.S. sanctions, and that the foundation would quietly act as the pipeline contractor while maintaining a public facade focused on environmental issues.

Following Russian President SEE RUSSIA ON A7

"We see it already happening: Deforestation is depriving the forest of rain."

Bernardo Flores, Brazilian climate scientist, on how factors including climate change are destroying the water cycle of the Amazon



THE AMAZON, UNDONE

## In parched rainforest, a desperate wait for water

Millions are facing a hotter, drier landscape, where the tipping point may already be here

BY TERRENCE MCCOY | PHOTOS BY ALEXANDRE CRUZ-NORONHA

RIO BRANCO, BRAZIL — In her 60 years of life in the Amazon, Antonia Franco dos Santos has never had much money. Food was sometimes scarce. But never in the forest, with its heavy rains and endless rivers, had she known a life without water — not until she moved to this city along the southern crest, where her reserves are now down to the last gallon and the deliveryman is nowhere to be seen.

"He'll come," Franco says, looking into the distance. "He will."

It hasn't rained in more than a month, and probably won't for another. The community pond that Franco and her neighbors used during the rainy season has dried to a muddy



Antonia Franco dos Santos lives in the remote city of Rio Branco in Brazil's Amazon, in a shack without running water. The Acre River, top photo, runs low and muddy through Rio Branco, in Acre state, in the country's west.

puddle. A water hole they've dug in desperation hasn't conserved a drop. And inside her wooden shack this Monday morning is a stack of dishes, unwashed; a pile of clothes, unwashed; and an infant great-grandchild named Samuel. He needs a washing, too.

For Franco, this makes three drought-racked years in a row, living in a landscape she never imagined: an Amazon gone dry.

"I have to hope," she says, glancing down at her mismatched socks. "Today will be different. Enough water will come."

For years, scientists have been warning that the Amazon is speeding toward a tipping SEE BRAZIL ON A10

## No sure word on motive in Va.

SHOOTER SEEN AS ANGRY, AGGRESSIVE

Investigators pursue an alleged 'manifesto'

This article is by Jim Morrison, Joe Heim, Justin Wm. Moyer, Olivia Diaz, Maham Javaid, Casey Parks and Andrea Salcedo

CHESAPEAKE, VA. — Police here said they spent Thanksgiving Day examining why a Walmart supervisor shot and killed six co-workers — focusing at least in part on an alleged "manifesto" he wrote — as families, friends and co-workers of the victims grieved on what should have been a joyous holiday.

A somewhat clearer picture began to emerge of the shooter — identified by authorities as 31-year-old Andre M. Bing — though neither police nor those who knew him could provide definite answers as to what motivated the Tuesday night rampage. Chesapeake Police Department spokesperson Leo Kosinski said authorities were "actively investigating the allegation that the suspect wrote a manifesto," first reported by WAVY-TV 10 in Portsmouth, though he provided no details.

One former colleague said Bing, an overnight supervisor who joined the company in 2010, confided in her that he had "anger issues." Another said he was "overly aggressive" and seemed to have little social life outside of work. A mother of one of the victims claimed Bing seemed to have a problem with her son — even attempting to fire him this year. But others described Bing as friendly and said they never imagined he would carry out such an attack, which police say ended when Bing took his own life.

"We are actively looking into a motive right now and we want to make sure we get it right before we release it," Kosinski said. SEE SHOOTING ON A4

## Men use condoms less, even with STDs surging

BY FENIT NIRAPPIL

The basket of free ultrathin and studded condoms stayed full to the brim — a recurrent reality that no longer surprised the D.C. health workers offering HIV testing this month at a downtown plaza.

Public health authorities are confronting a rise in sexually transmitted infections in a world where condom use has steadily declined — and, with it, one of the most effective ways of curbing the spread of disease.

"They'll laugh at it, or sometimes they get it and throw it away," said Kevins Anglade, a community outreach worker for Whitman-Walker Health, a D.C.-based LGBT health-care organization that opened in the 1970s as the Gay Men's Venereal Disease Clinic. "It's a new normal, which is very sad."

SEE CONDOMS ON A2

The United States recorded nearly 2.5 million cases of chlamydia, gonorrhea and syphilis in 2021, more than doubling in the past two decades, according to preliminary data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

About half of new infections last year were in young people between the ages of 15 and 24. Men who have sex with men contract infections at higher rates than heterosexuals because they are more likely to have multiple recent partners and it's easier for sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) to circulate in smaller networks of people.

Condoms, once central to campaigns to eradicate STDs at the height of the AIDS crisis, have become a tougher sell because of medical advancements such as long-acting contraception and

BLACK OUT

## Building a pipeline to bypass football's biases

At Michigan State, young coaches get an opportunity to learn from Tucker's successes and failures

BY CANDACE BUCKNER

Mel Tucker just sat down, and he already sees something he doesn't like.

It's August, and a new season is on the horizon. In the Michigan State University football office, staffers greet each other with cheery salutes of "Happy first practice!" But Tucker, the head coach, is stoic as he eyes the spliced-up practice film playing on the big screen, which illuminates the otherwise dark room.

The potato salad and green smoothie in front of him go ignored. Tupac Shakur plays faintly in the background. Tucker's eyes are locked not on a missed block or tackle but on a small white towel hanging from the back of a linebacker's pants.



JONATHAN NEWTON/THE WASHINGTON POST

Mel Tucker, who spent a decade in the NFL that included a stint as an interim head coach, is near the end of his third season leading the Michigan State University football team.

In here, coaches call that "flair" — any adornment that juices up the uniform. Tucker considers armbands, compression sleeves and even towels flair. And he hates flair.

He strives to keep it off his practice fields, but he must have missed the towel during that

SEE NFL ON A15

This fall, The Washington Post is examining the NFL's failure to equitably promote Black coaches to top jobs despite the multibillion-dollar league being fueled by Black players. There have been 192 head coaches since 1990; 25 have been Black.

## IN THE NEWS



JABIN BOTSFORD/THE WASHINGTON POST

**World Cup** A highlight goal cemented Brazil's win in its opener over Serbia. The U.S. team will continue play Friday against England. D1

### THE NATION

**Elon Musk** plans to restore banned Twitter accounts starting next week, a move critics say is dangerous. A2

**Rocks dug up** by the rover Perseverance have organic molecules that are the foundation for life as we know it, new research finds. A3

**Florida officials** say it could take months to clear the nearly 31 million cubic yards of debris left by Hurricane Ian. A18

### THE WORLD

**Bullfighting**, which is on the decline in Spain and across Latin America, is seeing a surge of popularity in southern France. A6

**Anwar Ibrahim**, a longtime opposition leader, has become Malaysia's prime minister, bringing a halt to a chaotic election season after last week's vote resulted in a hung parliament. A8

**The European Space Agency** has for the first time selected a person

with a physical disability to be included in its next generation of astronauts. A13

### THE ECONOMY

**Mining magnate** Andrew Forrest, one of the world's major polluters, is now betting the future of his company on green hydrogen — and technology that does not yet exist. A14

### THE REGION

**Volunteers** mobilized by the hundreds across the District to provide holiday meals and encouragement at a time

of elevated need. B1

**Virginia** community colleges are expanding the ways they help students in need, hoping to ease the pressures of inflation and the pandemic. B1

**After a federal court** ruling that restored border access for asylum seekers, D.C. may soon see another surge of migrants on buses from Texas and Arizona. B1

**A Maryland man** has been charged in the killing of Brian Ward, a D.C. teen who disappeared in 2020. B1

## INSIDE



**WEEKEND**  
**A merriment a day**  
Activities with lights and ugly sweaters abound.

**STYLE**  
**Fighting cancer and Trump stigma**  
A former surgeon general and his wife tackle life. C1

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