



Wednesday, Apr. 17, 2024

1. Seven jurors were picked for Donald Trump's criminal trial in New York.

What to know: Trump spent hours yesterday listening to potential jurors' opinions of him — some blunt, some guarded and some funny.

What now? Five more jurors and six alternates need to be selected. That complex process will continue tomorrow, and the trial's opening statements could begin as soon as Monday.

Want to know more? Post reporters covering Trump's trial will take part in a live chat at 2 p.m. Eastern.

2. The Supreme Court appeared divided over allowing a key Jan. 6 charge.

Yesterday: Justices heard arguments about whether prosecutors improperly used a federal law to charge hundreds of Capitol rioters. The court's conservatives seemed to think so.

Why it matters: The ruling, expected by July, could undo many rioters' convictions and sentences. And it could further delay Trump's election interference trial in D.C.

3. House Speaker Mike Johnson's job is in serious danger.

Why? Two far-right lawmakers are threatening to oust him over his plan to fund Ukraine and Israel. If they move ahead, Republicans could remove their second speaker in six months.

Also in Congress: House Republicans sent impeachment articles against Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas to the Senate, starting what is likely to be a brief trial.

4. Pro-Palestinian protests are challenging U.S. support for Israel's war in Gaza.

Some examples: Google workers were arrested yesterday after protesting their company's work with Israel. And major protests this week closed roads and bridges across the U.S.

The backlash: Some who criticized Israel's war have had their lives upended. And the University of Southern California this week canceled a pro-Palestinian valedictorian's speech.

5. Herders in Kenya are switching from cows to camels.

Why? They're milk-producing animals that are more resilient to climate change. A years-long drought has led to the deaths of many cows, shattering livelihoods in East Africa.

The bigger picture: The global camel population has doubled over the past 20 years. The move away from cattle is just one way humans are adapting to a changing planet.

6. Cancer could soon be more widely detected by blood tests.

The idea: The tests measure cancer "signals" in your blood, like pieces of tumor DNA. They could be useful in finding "silent" cancers, which can go undetected until it's too late.

The timeline: Some patients are already using them. But they still need final FDA approval, and some experts doubt that blood tests will be able to pick up all types of cancer.

7. Trash that NASA flung into space three years ago crashed into someone's house.

What happened? A metal object fell from the sky and tore through the roof of a Florida home last month. On Monday, NASA confirmed it was junk from the International Space Station.

This is unusual: Trash released into space typically burns up before it reaches Earth. NASA is investigating how this 1.6 pound hunk of garbage survived.



1. juror - member of a jury
guarded - here: restrained, careful
hush money - money that is paid to somebody to prevent them from giving other people information that could be embarrassing or damaging
2. prosecutor - a legal official who accuses someone of committing a crime
to charge - here: to publicly accuse
rioter - someone who behaves in a violent way
conviction - the fact of officially found guilty
sentence - a punishment given by a judge
3. House Speaker - Chairman of the House of Representatives
to oust - to force someone to leave a position
4. valedictorian - speaker at a graduation ceremony
5. herder - Hirte
drought - period without rain
6. FDA - Federal Drug Administration
7. hunk - a large, thick piece

To subscribe to The 7, go to <https://www.washingtonpost.com>