

NEWS BRIEFING

Staff and news services

Defrauded students inch closer to victory in De Vos lawsuit

WASHINGTON — A federal judge has ruled that Education Secretary Betsy DeVos' move to ease protections for former students of for-profit colleges should be reversed, handing a victory to those who said they were defrauded by their schools.

But U.S. District Judge Randolph Moss put his ruling on hold for 30 days, giving the Education Department and others a chance to respond. Moss had ruled last

week that DeVos' decision to freeze Obama-era protections for defrauded students was illegal. But he went a step further late Monday and said the regulation needs to be voided.

The department has set out to rewrite that regulation in a way that would weaken protections for students.

The new policy is expected to be announced by Nov. 1 and thus could overtake the court ruling.

Top German spy ousted after clash with Merkel on migrants

BERLIN — The head of Germany's domestic intelligence agency lost his job Tuesday after his remarks downplaying anti-migrant violence became a battleground between Chancellor Angela Merkel and her conservative critics.

Responding to violent right-wing protests following the killing of a German man, allegedly by migrants, in the eastern city of Chemnitz, Hans-Georg Maassen said his

agency had no reliable evidence that foreigners were "hunted" down in the streets — a term Merkel had used.

He added that "according to my cautious evaluation, there are good reasons for thinking that it is deliberate misinformation, possibly in order to distract the public from the murder in Chemnitz."

Maassen provided no evidence to back up his assertion.

Los Angeles takes step toward banning sale of fur products

LOS ANGELES — Los Angeles, one of the world's major fashion centers and long a symbol of glitz and glamour, is taking steps to ban the sale of new fur products, a move that would make it the largest city in the U.S. to do so.

A proposal to ban the sale of fur products advanced in the City Council on Tuesday. The council voted unanimously to direct the city attorney to draft an ordinance that

will prohibit the manufacture and sale of new fur products. The ordinance must be presented to the council at a future date for final approval.

A ban would take effect two years after final approval of the ordinance.

The ban would cover apparel made in whole or in part of fur, including clothing, handbags, shoes, hats, earmuffs, jewelry and keychains. Only used fur products could be sold.



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Deadly accident: Firefighters and other emergency personnel work to free people trapped in the wreckage of a bus in southern Balsas, Ecuador, on Tuesday after the vehicle plunged down the side of a mountain. Authorities said at least 12 people were killed.

Fort Trump? Polish leader dangles offer to president

WASHINGTON — Poland's leader pressed President Donald Trump on Tuesday to consider creating a permanent American military base in Poland, offering a tempting incentive: The installation would be called "Fort Trump."

Polish President Andrzej Duda extended the invitation during a one-on-one meeting with Trump at the White House that focused heavily on the U.S. presence in Poland as the country faces Russia's increased military activities in the region.

Trump said during a joint news conference with

Duda that he was considering the idea and noted that Poland had offered more than \$2 billion to the U.S. to pay for such an effort. Duda, for his part, came away confident that he had taken a major step toward lining up a permanent American military base in his country.

"I was smiling when talking to Mr. President. I said that I would very much like for us to set up a permanent American base in Poland which we would call Fort Trump," Duda said through a translator, prompting Trump to raise his eyebrows and smile.

"And I firmly believe that this is possible."

Seeking a check on Russian aggression, Poland wants the 3,000 U.S. troops now deployed in Poland on a rotating basis to be upgraded to a larger, permanent presence. A decision from the U.S. could come early next year.

Duda credited Trump for making Warsaw the first stop on the U.S. president's inaugural European trip last year and said Trump's outdoor address in Poland was a "very important moment" for the relationship between the two countries.

Russian activist's poisoning called 'highly plausible'

BERLIN — German doctors treating a member of Russian protest group Pussy Riot said Tuesday that claims he was poisoned are "highly plausible," but that they can't say how it occurred or who was responsible.

Pyotr Verzilov has been receiving intensive care

since arriving in Berlin from Moscow on Saturday, but his condition isn't life threatening, Dr. Kai-Uwe Eckardt said.

Verzilov's symptoms, together with information received from relatives and the Moscow hospital he was admitted to last week, "make it highly plausible

that a poisoning took place," Eckardt said.

Eckardt said Verzilov fell ill on Sept. 11 after attending a friend's court hearing in the Russian capital.

Verzilov's symptoms can result from the disruption of the nervous system that regulates the inner organs, Eckardt said.

U.S. rolls back pollution rules for drilling on federal land

BILLINGS, Mont. — The Trump administration rolled back an Obama-era rule meant to curb climate-changing pollution on Tuesday, easing restrictions on energy companies that allow huge volumes of natural gas to escape after drilling it from U.S. lands.

The move rescinds much of a 2016 rule adopted under President Barack Obama that forced energy companies to capture methane, a key contributor to climate change.

The replacement rule from the Interior Department does not have the same mandates for companies to reduce gas pollution.

Interior Department officials were unable to say how much the new rule would reduce methane emissions.

The prior regulation would have cut emissions by up to 180,000 tons a year.

New book: Former Deputy Director Andrew McCabe, who was fired from the FBI, will be the latest ex-government official to publish a Trump-related book.

"The Threat: How the FBI Protects America in the Age of Terror and Trump" will publish Dec. 4, publisher St. Martin's Press said.

Tesla investigation: The Justice Department is investigating Tesla over statements Chief Executive Elon Musk made last month about taking the company private, Tesla said Tuesday. Department investigators requested documents from the company and the company has complied, a Tesla spokesman said.

Chicago Tribune

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