

Giuliani heads up Trump's new legal wiz team



By Al Neal

A court hearing on the Trump campaign's federal lawsuit seeking to block Pennsylvania election officials from certifying the Biden victory in their state will moved forward Tuesday after the judge quickly denied Trump's new campaign attorney's request for a delay.

Judge Matthew Brann of the U.S. Middle District Court of Pennsylvania, informed Trump's lawyers, and the counties and state election official, Kathy Boockvar, that they must show up in court on time, and "be prepared for argument and questioning."

Trump is a man determined to avoid a concession speech and admitting defeat. This aptly sums up Donald Trump in the days following his electoral college loss to the Democratic ticket of Biden-Harris.

Were this a Buster Keaton silent comedy, Trump's ranting and flailing and crocodile tears would bring laughter to the audience.

Unfortunately, this is no laughing matter. And we are slowly crossing the line from pollical posturing to a one-term president hellbent on undermining democracy and the incoming Biden-Harris Administration.

The move by Trump follows a series of losses for Trump in court Friday, Nov. 3, as nine cases in battleground states—Pennsylvania, Arizona, and Michigan—were denied, or withdrawn in a single day.

Giuliani, like Trump, has been instrumental in tainting this election with unfounded conspiracy theories, and blaming all who say Biden and Harris won a free and fair election; not to mention one of the most secure elections in modern history.

"The media has tried to call the election, and they don't have a legal right to call the election. It only, it gets decided by our electors, not by NBC, CBS, MSNBC, CNN, and even Fox," he contended. "You don't get the right to call it. I don't get the right to

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call it. So he's contesting it vigorously."

Note his mention of "electors," not the people, as the deciders.

And as time moves on, and the countdown to vacate the White House inches closer to zero, Trump has moved away from just blaming mail-in ballot

President continues endless and mostly failing legal challenges in the ongoing attempt to overturn election results.

fraud for his loss, to say the election was “stolen from him” by a left-wing software firm connected to Hugo Chavez and George Soros which purposefully stole thousands of votes meant for him under cover of night.

Of course, Giuliani will mimic this, and will become a part of his new slash and burn legal strategy—something Trump, unhinged, as usual, will appreciate from his attorney.

“I can’t imagine that a rational person” in the general public “wouldn’t be adversely affected by the way he conducts himself,” said Barry Richard, who represented George W. Bush in the 2000 Florida recount.

As of Tuesday morning, Giuliani petitioned the U.S. Federal District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania to admit him into practice before that court and said in earnest he would: “Treat with civility and respect the lawyers, clients, opposing parties, the court, and all the officials with whom I work. Professional courtesy is compatible with

vigorous advocacy and zealous representation. Even though antagonism may be expected by my client, it is not part of my duty to my client.”

Giuliani is speaking of his client Trump and the petty temper tantrums which follow court hearings and dismissed lawsuits.

The Trump campaign filed an amended complaint in the Pennsylvania case, Sunday, Nov. 15, dropping most of the allegations tied to observers claiming they were unconstitutionally prevented from viewing the counting process. Instead, it now relies on how some counties allowed voters to “cure” deficient ballots while others did not.

Even if the Trump campaign were to win this, and that’s quite a long shot, it wouldn’t affect the number of votes enough to swing the election into Trump’s corner.

Thai students lead charge against military rulers and monarchy

By Ceren Sagir

Thailand’s riot police fired water cannons and tear gas at protesters Tuesday as they tried to break through barricades outside parliament while possible changes to the constitution were discussed.

Police had set up the barbed wire barricades earlier as hundreds of royalists demonstrated to call on MPs not to change the constitution.

But the student-led pro-democracy protesters are demanding changes to the constitution that was drawn up by the country’s former junta and want the removal of former military ruler Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-o-cha.

Other demands include a reform to curb the powers of King Maha Vajiralongkorn’s monarchy, as they believe the institution is too powerful and lacks accountability. The king has attracted criticism for spending most of his time in Germany and for his playboy lifestyle, including the appointment of an official consort in addition to his wife. Consort Sineenatra Wongvajirabhakdi was reinstated this autumn a year after being sacked and having multiple family members arrested on charges of having undermined the queen.

Thailand’s laws forbid people from insulting the

monarchy, and offenses could involve jail time of between three and 15 years.

Bangkok’s Erawan Medical Centre said that five people were hospitalized due to tear gas and others were treated by paramedics at the scene.

The movement has been staging increasingly determined rallies around the country since July.

There are seven draft constitutional amendments scheduled to be voted on during a two-day joint session of the House and Senate, as any constitutional changes require a joint vote by the bodies.

Any motions that are passed will have to go through a second and third reading at least a month after this week’s vote.

Thailand has had 20 constitutions since abolishing the absolute monarchy in 1932 in favor of a constitutional monarchy.

It is not expected that the parliament will agree on specific changes, but it is likely to establish a constitutional drafting committee to write a new charter. Consensus could also be reached on a draft that would allow all points in the constitution to be amended, with the significant exception of articles concerning the monarchy.

Student-led pro-democracy protesters are demanding changes to the constitution that was drawn up by the country’s former junta and want the removal of former military ruler Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-o-cha.

Sen. Graham's attempt to overturn Georgia results confirm soft coup plans



By John Wojcik

Georgia Republican Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger's revelation that Sen. Graham, R-S.C., pressed him to toss out thousands of valid ballots and urged blocking entire counties from having their mail-in ballots counted at all have raised concern that top GOP lawmakers are in on a plan to try a soft coup denying Biden's presidency he won on Nov. 3.

Raffensperger told the Washington Post that he spoke last Friday to Graham, chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee. He told the Post that Graham asked him whether political bias could have prompted poll workers to accept ballots with nonmatching signatures. Graham also asked Raffensperger if he could toss all mail ballots in counties found to have higher rates of nonmatching signatures.

Raffensperger said he was "stunned" that Graham would suggest that he find a way to toss ballots.

Graham has said all he was doing was trying to find out about Georgia election law. Even if that were true, it would, in any case, be an incredible conflict of interest for a senator from one state to be calling a top election official in another state in the middle of a recount of a race in which one candidate, Joe Biden, defeated the other candidate, Donald Trump by just 14,000 votes.

This is particularly the case where President-elect Biden won nationally by carrying the state of Georgia, and Sen. Graham is identified as one of the most enthusiastic boot lickers in the Trump camp.

Until now, some have explained support for Trump's refusal to concede by people like Graham, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, and House Republican Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy as nothing more than their wanting to give Trump's bruised ego a chance to come to terms with his defeat.

Graham's criminally coercive phone call to Raffensperger, however, shows that he and other top GOP lawmakers are actively participating in laying the groundwork for a possible soft legal coup if they can get away with it, keeping Trump in office despite his electoral loss.

Even if that is not the case, the actions of Graham and other leading Republicans are laying the groundwork for perhaps one-third of the U.S. electorate to never accept the results of the 2020 election. They hope this will strengthen their hands in the Senate and House as they sabotage a Biden administration on an ongoing basis.

Instead, they have to wage attacks on election officials, file court cases, and explore sending alternate slates to the Electoral College in mid-December in several states while simultaneously delaying the transition to a Biden administration.

Trump's refusal to concede and refusal to allow the Biden transition to begin is causing more than just political problems for a new Biden administration.

As Biden himself noted in a press conference Monday, more people will die from COVID-19 because of lack of coordination between the outgoing and incoming administrations.

The behavior of Graham and other top GOP lawmakers goes far beyond just allowing Trump time to come to terms with his defeat.

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Trump's frack attack against President-elect Biden fails in Pa. gas counties

By Climate Nexus

The Trump campaign's efforts to attack President-elect Joe Biden and win Pennsylvania by claiming he would ban fracking failed, while Biden's climate message appears to have boosted turnout, according to reporting from multiple outlets.

Biden not only won Pennsylvania overall, but — while Trump still won in areas with significant fracking operations — Biden improved on Clinton's 2016 performance against Trump in eight of Pennsylvania's top-10 gas-producing counties.

"Climate change as a voting issue has soared in the past five years particularly among Democrats and among independents," Anthony Leiserowitz, director of the Yale University Program on Climate Change Communication, told E&E.

"This absolutely was a crucial issue for constituencies he needed to carry him over the top: young people, Latino voters and suburban women, all of whom care more about climate change than other groups."

Acuerdo de Asociación Económica Integral Regional firmado

Vietnam News Agency

Ministros de 15 países de la región Asia-Pacífico firmaron hoy el Acuerdo de Asociación Económica Integral Regional (RCEP) después de ocho años de conversaciones.

El pacto comercial involucra a 10 países miembros de la ASEAN: Brunéi, Camboya, Indonesia, Laos, Malasia, Myanmar, Filipinas, Singapur, Tailandia y Vietnam, y los socios del bloque: Australia, China, Japón, Corea del Sur y Nueva Zelanda. Juntos, representan alrededor del 30 por ciento del Producto Interno Bruto (PIB) del mundo y el 30 por ciento de la población mundial.

Se espera que el acuerdo cree la mayor zona de libre comercio del mundo y numerosas nuevas cadenas de suministro, al tiempo de hacer contribuciones significativas a la recuperación económica regional posterior al COVID-19.

Hablando en la ceremonia de firma que se llevó a cabo virtualmente, el primer ministro de Vietnam, Nguyen Xuan Phuc, dijo que el nuevo marco de cooperación de RCEP contribuirá a acelerar la construcción de la Comunidad Económica de la ASEAN 2025, ayudando a la agrupación a convertirse en un socio dinámico y fuerte que trabaja por la prosperidad común.

La firma del acuerdo es el orgullo y el gran logro de los países y socios de la ASEAN al sentar las bases para un nuevo período de cooperación integral y de largo plazo, que reportará beneficios a todos los países de la región.

El primer ministro vietnamita expresó su esperanza de que el acuerdo sea pronto ratificado por los países y se ponga en marcha en el futuro, contribuyendo a la recuperación económica pospandémica y trayendo prosperidad a las personas y empresas de todos los países miembros.

En una entrevista con la Agencia Vietnamita de Noticias (VNA) al margen de la ceremonia de firma, el ministro de Industria y Comercio, Tran Tuan Anh, quien firmó el pacto en nombre de Vietnam, describió la firma del acuerdo como un hito en la integración económica de Vietnam y otros países participantes.

Con compromisos de apertura de mercados de bienes, servicios e inversión, y la armonización de las reglas de origen del producto entre los países, así como medidas de facilitación del comercio, el acuerdo generará oportunidades para desarrollar nuevas cadenas de suministro en la región.

El pacto ayudará a establecer mercados de exportación estables a largo plazo para Vietnam y otros países de la ASEAN, explicó el titular.

En particular, con nuevos marcos de cooperación en la RCEP y otros acuerdos de libre comercio, los países de la ASEAN se convertirán en destinos confiables para los inversores internacionales, enfatizó.

La conclusión de las conversaciones de la RCEP y la firma también juegan un papel en la promoción de la centralidad de la ASEAN en la configuración de la arquitectura regional, agregó.

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