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FIRST LADY: Nancy Reagan was vilified by some as a "dragon lady" but praised by others for her counsel and dedication to social causes.

'Again with the man she loved'

Nancy Reagan, wife and trusted adviser to president, dies at 94

By S.A. MILLER
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Some of the most vivid memories of Nancy Reagan reflect her enduring love of husband Ronald Reagan, whether gazing adoringly upon him at his inauguration as president, flashing a reassuring smile as the pair peered out of a hospital window after the assassination attempt or years later tenderly kissing his flag-draped casket.

Always the relentless protector of her beloved "Ronnie," Mrs. Reagan carefully tended to the former president's iconic image for a decade after his death.

Theirs was a love for the ages. "She is once again with the man she loved," Michael Reagan said in a tweet as word spread of his stepmother's death at the age of 94.

She died Sunday morning at her home in Los Angeles of congestive heart failure, and she will be buried next to her husband at his presidential library in Simi Valley, California, said a family spokesperson.

During her life, she was vilified by some as a "dragon lady" who reportedly ran the show behind the scenes in the Reagan White House, but also was praised for her intelligence, quiet counsel and dedication to social causes that helped define the role of a modern first lady.

The former actress was a fixture at the side of her husband as he made an improbable ascent from Hollywood actor to California governor to president of the U.S. Along the way, she served as both wife and trusted adviser, emerging as a relentless guardian of her husband's image during political turmoil, the 1981 assassination attempt, his battle with Alzheimer's disease and later as the widow faithfully keeping the Reagan flame.

For many, she is best known for her "Just Say No" campaign during the 1980s to keep youths from using illegal drugs.

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► Anti-drug crusade defined Nancy's first lady role. A7

► A president's adviser and backstage power broker. A7

ACCOUNTABILITY

NSA was left 'brain dead' in final 9/11 plotting stage

Hayden hints at Clinton neglect

By ROWAN SCARBOROUGH
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

President Clinton left the National Security Agency, the nation's electronic eavesdropper, in shambles at the very moment al Qaeda was in the final planning stages of carrying out the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on New York City and the Pentagon.

Retired Air Force Gen. Michael V. Hayden, the NSA director at the time, describes the decline in a memoir, writing an insider's view of an agency that the government at one time refused to acknowledge even existed.

One day in January 2000, the NSA's clunky, aging computer network became so overburdened that it crashed. The NSA, he says, was "brain dead."

The "coma" crisis lasted for several days as new computer hardware was flown into Fort Meade, Maryland, and techies shut down every node in order to reboot the nation's largest spy machine.

But it was a symptom of something far more serious at the NSA, and for the country.

"The outside world had passed it by in many areas," Mr. Hayden says in "Playing to the Edge: American Intelligence in the Age of Terror." "It was going deaf."

"The computer crash was the perfect metaphor for an agency desperately in need of change," he writes. "Antiquated computers were a problem. But the reality was actually worse. NSA was in desperate need of reinvention."

In a dawning age of encrypted, fiber

» see NSA | A12

CAMPAIGN 2016

Wins solidify Cruz as Trump's top rival



ROD LAMKEY JR./SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON TIMES

TOP CONTENDER: GOP presidential candidate Sen. Ted Cruz picked up crucial primary victories over the weekend, likely making him front-runner Donald Trump's highest competitor for the Republican nomination.

Conservatives feel betrayal by Ryan on budget issue

By DAVID SHERFINSKI AND SETH McLAUGHLIN
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

House Speaker Paul D. Ryan has only been in the top job five months, and he's already managed to lose the good will of conservative activists who say the year-end spending deal that closed out the last session of Congress was a betrayal of principle.

The "omnibus" spending bill was Mr. Ryan's first big opportunity as speaker, and to the grass-roots leaders

gathered at the Conservative Political Action Conference last week, he blew it.

"The omnibus just did me in, I'll tell you," Larry Spitznagle, a North Carolina man attending CPAC, said. "Abortion, Planned Parenthood — everything was funded that Obama wants to do and is funded by the omnibus bill. And who passed that? The House of Representatives."

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Texan also top in CPAC straw poll; Rubio, Kasich lag

By STEPHEN DINAN
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Sen. Ted Cruz's two overwhelming weekend wins, as well as an easy victory in The Washington Times/CPAC straw poll, cemented him as the top pick for Republican voters trying to stop Donald Trump's march to the nomination.

Mr. Cruz and Mr. Trump traded victories Saturday, but the bigger news was the sluggish performance by Sen. Marco Rubio and Ohio Gov. John Kasich, neither of whom broke 20 percent of the vote in Kansas, Maine, Kentucky or Louisiana. Between them they have just a single win and little hope of playing any role other than spoiler.

Mr. Cruz also easily topped Mr. Rubio among the more than 2,600 grass-roots leaders at the Conservative Political Action Conference, signaling his popularity among the opinion leaders in the conservative movement outside of the capital.

Combined, the weekend strengthened Mr. Trump's argument that he wins big, open contests, and also bolstered Mr. Cruz's appeal as the candidate who can win in the small races that depend on out-organizing opponents.

The two men together took 74 percent of the votes across the four states in the latest massive rejection for a Republican Party establishment tepid toward both of them.

"The scream you hear, the howl that comes from Washington, D.C., is utter terror at what we the people are doing

» see CPAC | A4

ARGENTINA

Fernandez murder scandal re-emerges

Spy stalls Macri's unity efforts

By FREDERIC PUGLIE
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON TIMES

BUENOS AIRES | A lurid political scandal that is part soap opera and part murder mystery is thrusting leftist former President Cristina Fernandez back into the spotlight as explosive charges have emerged in the death of a noted prosecutor a year ago.

But the revival of the scandal could also pose problems for new

President Mauricio Macri, Ms. Fernandez's center-right successor, rekindling partisan tensions and old feuds at a time when Mr. Macri hopes to move the country in a radically new direction.

Sensational testimony from a key witness last week put Ms. Fernandez back in the crosshairs of the investigation into the death of Alberto Nisman, the federal

» see ARGENTINA | A12

CAMPAIGN 2016

Democrats heat up rhetoric during debate in Michigan

Agree on water crisis accountability

By BEN WOLFGANG
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Sen. Bernard Sanders on Sunday night accused Hillary Clinton of being in the pocket of Wall Street and charged that she, along with her husband, made decisions two decades ago that have devastated the middle class, while the former secretary of state shot back and said her presidential primary rival would have let the American auto industry go bankrupt.

In a heated debate in Flint, Michigan, the two candidates — both of whom called on Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder, a Republican, to resign over his handling of the Flint water contamination crisis — testily traded barbs days before voters in the critical Midwestern states of Michigan, Ohio and Illinois go to the polls.

Mr. Sanders, who won an impressive three primary and caucus victories to Mrs. Clinton's one over the weekend,

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ASSOCIATED PRESS

WATER FIGHT: Democratic presidential candidates Hillary Clinton and Bernard Sanders argued over many issues Sunday night but agreed that Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder should resign because of the Flint water crisis.

POLITICS

Staggering increase in immigrant families propels issue talk. A3

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Ghani: Islamic State wiped out in eastern Afghanistan. A11

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Disenfranchising millions of new voters makes no sense. B1

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