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JUSTICES, 5-4, VOID KEY SPENDING CAP

Ruling Ends Limit on Individual's Total Donations to Federal Candidates

By ADAM LIPTAK

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court on Wednesday continued its abolition of limits on election spending, striking down a decades-old cap on the total amount any individual can contribute to federal candidates in a

The ruling, issued near the start of a campaign season, will very likely increase the role money plays in American poli-

The 5-to-4 decision, with the court's more conservative members in the majority, echoed Citizens United, the 2010 decision that struck down limits on independent campaign spending by

Wednesday's decision seemed to alter campaign finance law in subtle but important ways, notably by limiting how the government can justify laws said to restrict the exercise of First Amendment rights in the form of

ernment in regulating elections, with the majority deeply skeptical of government efforts to control participation in politics, and the minority saying that such oversight was needed to ensure a functioning democracy. Chief Justice John G. Roberts

Jr., writing for four justices in the controlling opinion, said the overall limits could not survive First Amendment scrutiny. "There is no right in our democracy more basic," he wrote, "than the right to participate in electing our political leaders."

In a dissent from the bench, Justice Stephen G. Breyer called the majority opinion a disturbing development that raised the overall contribution ceiling to "the number infinity."

"If the court in Citizens United opened a door," he said, "today's decision may well open a flood-

Such oral dissents are rare. and they signal deep disagreements, But Chief Justice Roberts and Justice Breyer noted from the bench that the other side's ar-

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INPOLITICAL RACES

two-year election cycle.

corporations and unions.

campaign contributions.

The court's 88-page decision reflected sharply different visions of the meaning of the First Amendment and the role of gov-

NEWS ANALYSIS

Power Surge for Donors

By NICHOLAS CONFESSORE

Big donors, leaders of political parties and candidates with access to wealthy supporters will be the biggest beneficiaries of the Supreme Court decision issued on Wednesday, a ruling that could fundamentally reshape the political terrain in the 2014 elections and beyond.

Election experts predicted a surge of new money into congressional campaigns and political parties, expanding the world of high-dollar fund-raising now dominated by "super PACs" and big-spending political nonprofit

The decision effectively eradicates a significant campaign finance restriction brought about in the aftermath of the Watergate scandal, the cap on the total amount any one person can give to federal candidates and parties in any two-year election cycle.

"The Supreme Court ruling will dramatically increase the importance of major donors in federal elections," said Robert K. Kelner, a Republican election

Two groups in particular stand to be most empowered by Wednesday's decision: Those with the wherewithal to spend millions of dollars on campaign contributions and those with access to them, including party leaders, senior lawmakers and presidents.

Donors would still be barred from giving more than \$5,200 to any one candidate over the course of the 2014 campaign. But the new ruling would allow each donor to contribute that amount to as many candidates as he or she wants, freeing those with the means to pour millions of dollars

into candidates and parties. Current rules limit each donor to a total of \$74,600 worth of contributions to party committees and political action committees, and \$48,600 to all federal candi-

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Afghan Campaign Enters Final Days

Ashraf Ghani, a candidate for Afghan president. Security concerns are likely to keep some voters at home Saturday. Pages A8-9.

Crime Inquiry Said to Open On Citigroup

By BEN PROTESS and MICHAEL CORKERY

Just as Citigroup was putting a troubled past of taxpayer bailouts and risky investments behind it, the bank now finds itself in the government's cross hairs again.

authorities Federal opened a criminal investigation into a recent \$400 million fraud involving Citigroup's Mexican unit, according to people briefed on the matter, one of a handful of government inquiries looming over the giant bank.

The investigation, overseen by the F.B.I. and prosecutors from the United States attorney's office in Manhattan, is focusing in part on whether holes in the bank's internal controls contributed to the fraud in Mexico. The question for investigators is whether Citigroup — as other banks have been accused of doing in the context of money laundering - ignored warning signs.

The bank, which also faces a parallel civil investigation from the Securities and Exchange Commission's enforcement unit, hired the law firm Shearman & Sterling to lead an internal inquiry into the fraud, said the people briefed on the matter, who spoke

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Iraq Veteran at Fort Hood Kills 3 and Himself

This article is by Dave Montgomery, Manny Fernandez and Ashley Southall.

KILLEEN, Tex. — A soldier who was being evaluated for post-traumatic stress disorder opened fire at Fort Hood on Wednesday, killing three people and wounding 16 before killing himself, the authorities said. The shooting set off a huge police response and shut down the sprawling Army base, the same facility where a deadly rampage by an officer resulted in 13 deaths

Fort Hood's commanding general said the gunman, an Army specialist who had served in Iraq and was being treated for behavioral and mental health issues, had died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound. The commander, Lt. Gen. Mark A. Milley, told reporters that the soldier's motive remained unclear, but that the shooting did not appear to be related to terrorism.

A Pentagon official said the suspected gunman was Army Specialist Ivan Lopez. General Milley, while not identifying Specialist Lopez by name, said the gunman had served four months

in Iraq in 2011 and was being evaluated for post-traumatic stress disorder, but had not yet been diagnosed with the condition. There were indications that he had self-reported a traumatic brain injury when he returned from Iraq, General Milley said. Reports of the shooting sent

dozens of local, state and federal law enforcement officials rushing to the base in Killeen as they had in November 2009. In Chicago, President Obama said that White House and Pentagon officials were following the events closely. "We are going to get to the bot-

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Lucy Hamlin and her husband waited for permission to re-enter Fort Hood on Wednesday.

G.M. Secrecy on Crashes Adds to Families' Pain For Cuomo, Pivotal Role in Charter School Push

By RACHEL ABRAMS and DANIELLE IVORY

There is anger that General Motors did not come forward sooner with information about its faulty cars. There is grief that loved ones were lost in crashes that might have been preventable. And there is outrage that federal safety regulators did not intervene.

But what is now most upsetting to many relatives of people killed in accidents involving recalled G.M. cars is the uncertainty and secrecy surrounding the crashes — the fact that G.M. won't tell them what they most want to know.

Not only has G.M. twice adjusted the number of deaths it says are linked to an ignition switch defect, but it has also refused to disclose publicly the list of the confirmed victims, now said to be 13. The enduring mystery has left scores of grieving families playing a guessing game, including the relatives of one accident victim, identified by The New York Times and confirmed by the office of Senator Claire McCaskill, a Missouri Democrat, to be among the 13.

"Why do you think G.M. has not contacted us? It's not like they don't know where we live," said Cathy Sachse, whose mother-in-law was killed in 2009 while driving a Saturn Ion in Missouri. "Trust me, we have been haunted

Continued on Page B2

By JAVIER C. HERNÁNDEZ

and SUSANNE CRAIG It was a frigid February day in Albany, and leaders of New York City's charter school movement were anxious. They had gone to the capital to court lawmakers. but despite a boisterous showing by parents, there seemed to be little clarity about the future of their schools.

Then, as they were preparing to head home, an intermediary called with a message: Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo wanted to meet.

To their surprise, Mr. Cuomo offered them 45 minutes of his time, in a private conference room. He told them he shared their concern about Mayor Bill de Blasio's ambivalence toward charter schools and offered to help, according to a person who attended but did not want to be identified as having compromised the privacy of the meeting.

In the days that followed, the governor's interest seemed to intensify. He instructed charter advocates to organize a large rally in Albany, the person said. The advocates delivered, bringing thousands of parents and students, many of them black, Hispanic, and from low-income communities, to the capital in early March, and eclipsing a pivotal rally for Mr. de Blasio taking

place at virtually the same time. The moment proved to be a turning point, laying the ground-

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NATIONAL A14-19

Introductions Required

Muriel E. Bowser, who upset Mayor Vincent C. Gray of Washington in a primary election on Tuesday, is largely unknown to voters — or was. PAGE A14

Democrats' Hopes Lifting

The Affordable Care Act's high number of enrollees could provide leverage against the G.O.P. this fall. PAGE A18

INTERNATIONAL A6-12

A Rebooted Russian Army

Across Crimea in the past few weeks, a sleek new vanguard of the Russian military has been on display. PAGE A12 **BUSINESS DAY B1-13**

Amazon's Big Bet on Video

Amazon Fire TV is part of a multibilliondollar effort toward a future in which consumption and viewing content become tightly linked.

Fake Meats, but Real Taste

Demand for meat alternatives is growing, spurring investors who see a solution to a big problem. PAGE B1

NEW YORK A20-24

A Quotation's Grim Origins

Questions have been raised about an inscription at the National September 11 Memorial Museum. PAGE A20



ARTS C1-8

Kitchen Art With a Past

Paintings by Gauguin and Bonnard hung for decades on an Italian factory worker's wall. Now identified, they are worth over \$15 million.

HOME D1-8

Moss, Without the Mystery

Many gardeners grow patches accidentally, but only a few manage to cultivate moss into an entire lawn, more lush and verdant than grass.

THURSDAY STYLES E1-8

Fashion's Unfashionable Turn

Hip urbanites wearing unhip suburban gear: Is "normcore" style an inside joke or a philosophical statement? PAGE E1

EDITORIAL, OP-ED A26-27

Gail Collins

PAGE A27



