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Judge: Bolton can publish book

BY ERIC TUCKER
 ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — A federal judge ruled Saturday that former national security adviser John Bolton can move forward in publishing his tell-all book despite efforts by the Trump administration to block the release because of concerns that classified information could be exposed.

The decision from U.S. District Judge Royce Lamberth is a victory for Bolton in a court case that involved core First Amendment and national security concerns. But the judge also made clear his concerns that Bolton had “gambled with the national security of the United States” by taking it upon himself to publish his memoir without formal clearance from a White House that says it

was still reviewing it for classified information.

“Defendant Bolton has gambled with the national security of the United States. He has exposed his country to harm and himself to civil (and potentially criminal) liability,” Lamberth wrote. “But these facts do not control the motion before the Court. The government has failed to establish that an injunction will prevent irreparable harm.”

From a practical perspective, the ruling clears the path for a broader election-year readership and distribution of a memoir, due out Tuesday, that paints an unflattering portrait of President Donald Trump’s foreign policy decision-making during the turbulent year-and-a-half that Bolton spent in the White House.

Soon after the ruling was released, Trump tweeted that Bolton “broke the law by releasing Classified Information (in massive amounts). He must pay a very big price for this, as others have before him. This should never to happen again!!!”

Bolton’s lawyer, Chuck Cooper, applauded Lamberth for denying the government’s attempt to “suppress” Bolton’s book. Publisher Simon & Schuster said the decision “vindicated the strong First Amendment protections against censorship and prior restraint of publication.”

While declining to halt the release of the book, Lamberth did suggest that Bolton may have left himself open to potential criminal prosecution by publishing classified information and that

the government may be successful in trying to prevent Bolton from keeping proceeds from the book.

Bolton’s team insisted that Bolton had spent months addressing White House concerns about classified information and that Bolton had been assured in late April by the official he was working with that the manuscript no longer contained any such material. Bolton’s lawyers said the Trump administration’s efforts to block the book were a pretext to censor him for an account that the White House found unfavorable.

The Justice Department sued this past week to block the book’s release and to demand that copies be retrieved. Officials said the book contained classified infor-

mation and that Bolton had failed to complete a prepublication review process meant to ensure former government officials do not improperly disclose national security secrets in books they write. The administration submitted written statements from multiple officials attesting to the national security concerns of releasing the book.

The judge did not take issue with those concerns in his 10-page order. But with 200,000 copies of the book already distributed to booksellers across the country, attempting to block its release would be futile, the Lamberth wrote. Major media organizations also obtained the book and published comprehensive

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BY KEVIN MERTZ/THE STANDARD-JOURNAL/

Frank Manzano, front, and Aisha Short held candles during Friday’s vigil in Lincoln Park.

Juneteenth marked with candlelight vigil in area

BY KEVIN MERTZ
 THE (MILTON) STANDARD-JOURNAL

MILTON — A candlelight vigil held Friday evening in Milton paid homage to a date which is significant for the African-American community.

The vigil, held in the area of the Milton Moose Family Center, was organized by a group of seven friends from Milton who have launched an effort — “If Not Us, Then Who?” — in the days following the death of George Floyd while in the custody of Minneapolis police.

Frank Manzano, one of the event organizers, said prior to the vigil that the area next to the Moose was the perfect location for the activity.

“It’s a very open space where people will see us, people coming off the (Gov. James Pollock) bridge,” Manzano said.

He added that June 19, also known as Juneteenth, was the perfect date to hold such a vigil.

“It’s a vigil to respect our fallen

brothers and sisters... and to pray for future lives,” Manzano said.

“The lives that have been lost will not be lost... We are going there to honor everyone on June 19... We are looking to spread awareness about what Juneteenth is.”

He also recounted the history of the day, noting that in 1863 President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation.

“That was supposed to free all slaves,” Manzano said.

However, he noted that the communication tools were not in place to spread the word across the country that all slaves were declared free.

More than two years later — on June 19, 1865 — Gen. Gordon Granger announced in Galveston, Texas, that the Civil War was over and slaves were now free. That was the first time those in Galveston had learned that slaves were declared free.

“Up until this point, not all slaves were free,” Manzano said. “That’s a day that should be remembered, in American history... As a minority

in this country, there are very few events, especially national holidays, that are important in our fight.”

He also noted that early June is also remembered for the anniversary of the Tulsa race massacre.

From May 31 through June 1, 1921, 36 people were killed and 800 admitted to hospitals after mobs of white residents attacked black residents and business owners in Tulsa.

Nisan Trotter, a Lewisburg businessman and former standout football player at Bucknell, opened Friday’s vigil with a prayer. Kareem Williams spoke on the Emancipation Proclamation.

Manzano, prior to the event, said the efforts of “If Not Us, Then Who?” have grown since first holding a protest three weeks ago in Milton.

“We were angry and upset,” Manzano said. “We learned to channel that anger to educate people, make them realize what we’re fighting for. That’s more important than

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Trevorton concert series to debut in July

BY LARRY DEKLINSKI
 THE NEWS-ITEM
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TREVORTON — The Summer Concert Series at Trevorton Community Park will debut in July.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, shows by Memory Lane, R.A.T.L. and Odyssey scheduled this month at the Ian Latsha Memorial Bandstand were canceled by the Zerbe Township Recreation Committee.

With Northumberland County now in the green phase of Gov. Tom Wolf’s reopening plan, the committee felt best to start the series following the Fourth of July holiday, according to Zerbe Township Supervisor Mike Mazer, who also serves as president of the recreation committee.

“We were waiting until the county went green to make a decision on what to do,” Mazer said. “We are looking forward to the

concerts because everybody certainly enjoys them.”

The concerts, which start at 7 p.m., are as follows:

- Thursday, July 9, Deuce (Rock)
- Saturday, July 11, Strawberry Ridge (Bluegrass)
- Saturday, July 18, After Hours Band (Swing)
- Thursday, July 23, Billy D and Rosie (Doo Wop)
- Thursday, Aug. 6, Across the Pond (Traditional Irish)
- Saturday, Aug. 22, Codi and Joe Show (Folk/Rock)
- Thursday, Aug. 27, Ann Kerstetter Band (Blues)

Mazer said attendees will be encouraged to follow health and safety guidelines through public announcements and signage. Hand sanitizer has also been placed in the restrooms.

The recreation committee will also hold its second annual car show from 2 to 5 p.m. Saturday, July 18, with a rain date of Sunday.

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Mother of missing children charged with felonies

BY MARK GILGER
 THE NEWS-ITEM
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RIVERSIDE — Borough police, in cooperation with state and federal authorities, are continuing their search for a Riverside woman who absconded with her two missing children whom she allegedly doesn’t have legal custody over.

On Tuesday, Riverside police filed two felony counts each of interfering with the custody of children, endangering the welfare of children and concealing the whereabouts of children against Sawsan Hadidi, mother of missing children Dana and Danny Hadidi.

Danny is 4 years old, while Dana is three months old. They were last seen June 11 in Riverside.

Riverside police are being assisted in their search for Hadidi and her children by the U.S. Marshal Service and National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

Borough police urge anyone with information about Hadidi and the children to contact them at 570-275-4305, or the East Central Emergency Network at 570-784-6300.

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 Areas of fog
 this morning
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