



Partly sunny 78/49 • Tomorrow: Showers 68/55 **B6**

Democracy Dies in Darkness

THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 2024 • **\$3**

‘Dead ship’ incidents number in hundreds

More than 400 vessels lost propulsion in U.S. waters in recent years

BY JOYCE SOHYUN LEE, IAN DUNCAN, JON SWAINE AND STEVEN RICH

Less than two weeks after Baltimore’s Francis Scott Key Bridge was destroyed by an out-of-control cargo ship, another huge container ship passed beneath a busy bridge connecting New York and New Jersey and then suddenly decelerated in a narrow artery of one of the nation’s largest ports.

“We’re a dead ship,” said a voice over the maritime radio a short time later, invoking an industry term that often refers to a ship that is unable to move on its own.

Three tug boats helped shepherd the APL Qingdao — a vessel more than 1,100 feet long and flying under the flag of Malta — from where it lost propulsion near the Bayonne Bridge to a safe location, authorities said. The ship dropped anchor just upstream from the even busier Verazzano-Narrows Bridge, which carries about 200,000 vehicles per day.

The April 5 incident is one of hundreds in which massive cargo ships lost propulsion, many near bridges and ports, according to a Washington Post analysis of Coast Guard records.

The findings indicate that the kind of failure that preceded the March 26 Baltimore bridge collapse — the 984-foot Dali is believed to have lost the ability to propel itself forward as it suffered a more widespread power outage — was far from a one-off among the increasingly large cargo ships

SEE SHIPS ON A6

Dubai left inundated after desert deluge



AMR ALFIKY/REUTERS

A person walks through floodwaters Wednesday in Dubai, with the Burj Khalifa tower in the background. Extreme rainfall in the United Arab Emirates led to speculation that cloud seeding could have been a factor. But scientists say the rain was a product of a weather pattern predicted days in advance, not geoengineering. **Story, A13**

ELECTION 2024

Trump readies for another tilt with wind industry

BY MAXINE JOSELOW AND JOSH DAWSEY

Former president Donald Trump repeatedly ranted about wind power during a fundraising dinner with oil and gas industry executives last week, falsely claiming that the renewable-energy source is unreliable, unattractive and bad for the environment.

“I hate wind,” Trump told the executives over a meal of chopped

Pitching oil executives, he pledges to thwart clean-energy projects

steak at his Mar-a-Lago Club and resort in Florida, according to a person with knowledge of the meeting, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to describe a private conversation.

Trump’s comments reveal how he is wooing potential donors with his long-standing hostility to wind farms and pledges to halt this form of renewable energy if he returns to office. His stance poses a potential threat to one of the linchpins of America’s clean-energy transition, according to more than a dozen Trump allies, energy experts and offshore wind industry officials.

Even if President Biden were to win reelection, experts say, oppo-

nents of offshore wind will remain emboldened by Trump’s stance and well positioned to challenge a new generation of projects in federal waters.

And if Trump were to return to the White House?

“If I were in the offshore wind industry, I would probably be pretty, pretty nervous,” said a former

SEE TRUMP ON A7

Tariffs on China: Biden seeks to protect the U.S. steel industry. **A8**

Russian document targets the West

SECRET ADDENDUM TO POLICY PAPER

Ukraine war seen as way to remake global order

BY CATHERINE BELTON

Russia’s Foreign Ministry has been drawing up plans to try to weaken the country’s Western adversaries, including the United States, and leverage the Ukraine war to forge a global order free from what it sees as American dominance, according to a secret Foreign Ministry document.

In a classified addendum to the official — and public — “Foreign Policy Concept of the Russian Federation,” the ministry calls for an “offensive information campaign” and other measures spanning “the military-political, economic and trade and informational psychological spheres” against a “coalition of unfriendly countries” led by the United States.

“We need to continue adjusting our approach to relations with unfriendly states,” says the 2023 document, which was provided to The Washington Post by a European intelligence service. “It’s important to create a mechanism for finding the vulnerable points of their external and internal policies with the aim of developing practical steps to weaken Russia’s opponents.”

The document provides the first official confirmation and codification of what many in the Moscow elite say has become a hybrid war against the West. Russia is seeking to subvert Western support for Ukraine and disrupt the domestic politics of the United

SEE RUSSIA ON A11

Missile strike: Kyiv says its allies need to bulk up its air defenses. **A11**

U.S. telecoms lobby against price cuts for internet users

BY TONY ROMM

AT&T, Charter, Comcast and Verizon are quietly trying to weaken a \$42.5 billion federal program to improve internet access across the nation, aiming to block strict new rules that would require them to lower their poorest customers’ monthly bills in exchange for a share of the aid.

In state after state, the telecom firms have blasted the proposed price cuts as illegal — forcing regulators in California, New York, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and elsewhere to rethink, scale back or abandon their plans to condition the federal funds on financial relief for consumers.

The lobbying campaign threatens to undermine the largest burst of money to upgrade the country’s internet service in U.S. history. Enacted by President Biden as part of a sprawling 2021 infrastructure law, the funds are intended to deliver speedy and affordable broadband to the final unserved pockets of America by 2030 — a goal that the White House likens to the federal campaign nearly a century ago to electrify the nation’s heartland.

For some state and federal officials, though, the fear is that the

SEE PRICE CAPS ON A17



MOHAMMED HAMADA AND PALESTINE RED CRESCENT SOCIETY/THE WASHINGTON POST

From left, Hind Rajab, 6, Bashar Hamada, 44, and his daughter Layan, 15, were killed in a car outside Gaza City on Jan. 29, along with four other family members. Paramedics Yousef Zeino and Ahmed al-Madhoun were killed as they attempted to rescue Hind, who survived the longest.

A deadly evacuation attempt in Gaza

Post investigation finds evidence of Israeli forces’ presence in area where 6-year-old and paramedics who tried to save her were killed

This article is by Meg Kelly, Hajar Harb, Louisa Loveluck, Miriam Berger and Cate Brown

For 3½ long hours on Jan. 29, the cellphone in 6-year-old Hind Rajab’s hands was the closest thing she had to a lifeline. Alone in the back seat of a car outside a Gaza City gas station, she was drifting in and out of consciousness, surrounded by bodies, as she told

emergency dispatchers that Israeli tanks were rumbling closer.

From the operations room of the Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS), roughly 50 miles away in the city of Ramallah, the team on duty had done their best to save the child. Paramedics were on their way, the dispatchers kept telling her: Hold on.

The paramedics were driv-

ing to their deaths.

Twelve days later, when a Palestinian civil defense crew finally reached the area, they found Hind’s body in a car riddled with bullets, according to her uncle, Samir Hamada, who also arrived at the scene early that morning. The ambulance lay charred roughly 50 meters (about 164 feet) away from the car, its destruction

SEE GAZA ON A12

D.C. targets ‘porch pirates’ with stings, tougher penalties

Thefts are through the roof, but critics say the new tactics are excessive

BY PETER HERMANN

A man with a bag slung over one shoulder pedaled a ride-share bike past a light-blue rowhouse in LeDroit Park seven times before he paused, D.C. police said. Then, as officers watched, he walked to the front steps and grabbed one of three brown boxes affixed with Amazon labels that had been put there as bait.

In the boxes were coffee and paperback books — plus location-tracking devices.

The man was quickly arrested, part of a crackdown by D.C. police and prosecutors on the proliferation of “porch pirates” who swipe newly delivered packages left at people’s front doors.

The once largely seasonal crime grew during the pandemic, when trips to stores were difficult, and has since become far more common throughout the year in D.C. and elsewhere. The pilfering is testing residents’ resolve following last year’s spike in violent offenses in the city. And, along with brazen retail thefts that have forced stores to keep common products under lock and

key, the incessant porch-pirating has added new challenges to shopping.

“Obviously, it’s not a violent crime, but I think what we’re seeing is that these kinds of cases are having a dramatic impact on the community,” said Jodi Lazarus, an assistant U.S. attorney in the District and deputy chief of the D.C. Superior Court division.

As a result, police are more aggressively targeting suspected thieves. In one instance, according to court documents, officers hid in a CVS store on Capitol Hill and watched as a man stole \$33.47 worth of merchandise. Police said the man already had been charged with shoplifting in Arlington County, where authorities had an arrest warrant for him.

Prosecutors in D.C. are charging accused serial offenders with felonies, and the city has enacted tougher laws. Meanwhile, UPS is using artificial intelligence to identify delivery areas where packages are most likely to disappear, and Amazon has set up lockers at D.C. police stations to secure packages ready for pickup.

The thieves take everyday items that can be replaced, such as coffee beans and cat litter, but also sentimental treasures, including the handmade patchwork quilt with pictures of crayons and animals that arrived for Matthew Malarkey’s 1-year-old

SEE THEFTS ON A4

IN THE NEWS

Mayorkas trial ends Three hours after proceedings began, the Senate voted along party lines to dismiss impeachment charges against the homeland security secretary. **A8**

Banned from the NBA Jontay Porter of the Raptors was removed from the league after an investigation found he bet on games. **D1**

THE NATION **Arizona’s** 1864 abortion ban exposes rifts among GOP ranks fearful of a fall reckoning. **A5** **The House speaker** is forging ahead on a foreign aid plan that has roiled his party. **A9**

THE WORLD **Iran’s** attack on Israel revealed insights into the nation’s arsenal. **A10** **The White House** is imperiling U.S. troops by disregarding an eviction notice from Niger, a whistleblower said. **A14**

THE ECONOMY **A Volkswagen** factory could become the first auto plant in the South to unionize through a vote since the 1940s. **A15** **A whistleblower** told a Senate panel that supervisors at Boeing subjected him to retaliation and threats after he raised safety concerns. **A16**

THE REGION **In Virginia**, lawmakers and the governor reached a deal to work toward a new budget by the middle of May, averting a crisis. **B1** **A major** two-year renovation has been approved for the 100-year-old Rock Creek Park Golf Course. **B1**

STYLE **NPR** was thrust into turmoil after a business editor, who subsequently resigned, wrote an essay accusing it of “conforming to a politically liberal worldview.” **C1**

LOCAL LIVING **Haunted** by a childhood house — and the dream of buying it.

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