

Amazon HQ, arena may face traffic jam

Transportation plans for the large developments may slow flow on Route 1

BY TEO ARMUS

When Virginia officials managed to woo Amazon to open its second headquarters in Arlington, they sweetened the deal with a big transportation promise: They would push to lower an elevated highway — a six-lane, gridlocked eyesore that cuts the area in two — and add stoplights and sidewalks.

It was key to winning over the tech giant, which in its search for a new corporate home had stressed the need for a walkable, bike-friendly neighborhood. Area boosters noted that the plan was not definite but seemed to treat it like a sure thing, boasting as recently as last year about how Arlington's Route 1 would be transformed into a flat, tree-lined “urban boulevard.”

Yet, as Gov. Glenn Youngkin (R) tries to secure another billion-dollar deal just two miles down the road in Alexandria — a new arena for the Washington Wizards and the Washington Capitals — that expected makeover now presents a major speed bump for the sports facility.

Questions about how to get as many as 20,000 spectators to Alexandria's Potomac Yard area have emerged as an early sticking point. Sports fans coming south from D.C. could add 2,800 cars during peak rush hour to an already congested Route 1, according to a state-commissioned study released last week.

The basketball and hockey teams' move requires approval from Virginia state legislators

SEE ARENA ON A6

Scrutinized U.N. agency struggles to aid Gazans

BY MIRIAM BERGER

JERUSALEM — The U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees, facing explosive allegations of ties with Hamas, is struggling to preserve its reputation and maintain its lifesaving operations in Gaza, as Israel threatens to invade the enclave's last refuge for displaced civilians.

Political pressure on the U.N. Relief and Works Agency mounted further on Saturday after Israel said it had uncovered a tunnel passing under UNRWA's main headquarters in Gaza City. The Israeli military posted pictures of what it called an electrical supply hub powering a vast Hamas underground network in the area and said “large quantities of weapons” had been recovered there.

UNRWA chief Philippe Lazzarini said Saturday that the agency had no knowledge of the underground tunnel and had neither the “military and security expertise nor the capacity” to conduct military-grade inspections of the premises. Israel, he added, had not formally notified UNRWA of the findings under the compound,

SEE UNRWA ON A13

Back-to-back champs



STEPH CHAMBERS/GETTY IMAGES

Quarterback Patrick Mahomes lifts the Lombardi Trophy after his Kansas City Chiefs rallied by the San Francisco 49ers in overtime to win Super Bowl LVIII, 25-22, on Sunday night in Las Vegas. The Chiefs became the NFL's first repeat champion since the New England Patriots in the 2003 and 2004 seasons. **Sports, D1**

Problems with financial form create college chaos

BY DANIELLE DOUGLAS-GABRIEL

In nearly three decades of working at colleges, Brad Barnett had seen scores of students get tripped up by the clunky old federal financial aid form, with its daunting array of questions and complicated formulas.

A revamped Free Application for Federal Student Aid — a shorter, simpler version of its infamous predecessor — promised an easier path for students to access more money to pay for college when it debuted in late December.

“We’ve wanted this for years,” said Barnett, the director of financial aid at James Madison

FAFSA glitches, delays leave students, states, institutions in limbo

University in Virginia. “Anyone who has worked with the old form knows how time-consuming and confusing it could be. How could you not be a fan of a better, easier, faster process?”

But the Education Department's launch of the new FAFSA has been far from easy or fast. Technical glitches are locking some families out of the form, while many who have completed the FAFSA probably have incor-

rect estimates of aid because the agency failed initially to update a crucial income formula. Colleges won't get most data until March, meaning students will have to wait longer for financial aid awards and have less time to weigh offers and make a key life choice.

Students, colleges, counselors, states and foundations are in limbo, wondering whether the new form will do more harm than good this year. Some worry the kinks could cause some prospective students to give up altogether. One analysis showed only 676,493 seniors had completed the FAFSA by late January, fewer than half of the 1.5 million who had done so at the same time last

year.

“Do you have a lost class because of this?” Barnett asked. “This whole process was done in large part to help low- and middle-income students, but the delays and glitches are hurting them the most.”

Many schools traditionally ask new students to commit to attending by May 1. But some, including California's two university systems — are pushing back that deadline because of the FAFSA problems.

At a recent conference for financial aid administrators, Education Secretary Miguel Cardona assured the crowd the department is working to ease the

SEE FAFSA ON A4

An unscathed neighborhood in Chile's burn scar

Fire prevention methods save community amid deadly wildfire that tore through Valparaíso region

BY YASNA MUSSA AND TERENCE MCCOY

QUILPUÉ, CHILE — Heading up the hill, on the way to the neighborhood, everything looked black.

On one side of the road, the charred remains of houses and the skeletons of trees. Beyond, the smoking husk of Chile's national botanical garden. The air still carried the acrid smell of the historic wildfires that left at least 131 people dead, destroyed thousands of homes in the seaside Valparaíso region and plunged the Andean nation into mourning.

But at the crest of the hill, there was a stunning sight. In this desert of ash and soot, an oasis.

The neighborhood of Botania gleamed upon the hilltop, its neat rows of brightly painted houses undamaged. Cars sat undisturbed on its ash-free roads.

That this community of 80 or so houses somehow emerged unscathed from what have been called the deadliest fires in Chilean history has generated viral social media posts and headlines

SEE CHILE ON A12



SEBASTIAN HELENA/SEBASTIAN HELENA

An aerial view of the Botania neighborhood in Chile that, through access to fire prevention training and implementation, was unscathed from the fires that devastated the region.

Biden closer to a breach

FRUSTRATIONS WITH NETANYAHU MOUNT

Aides urge more public criticism of Israeli leader

BY YASMEEN ABUTALEB, JOHN HUDSON AND TYLER PAGER

President Biden and his top aides are closer to a breach with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu than at any time since the Gaza War began, no longer viewing him as a productive partner who can be influenced even in private, according to several people familiar with their internal discussions.

The mounting frustration with Netanyahu has prompted some of Biden's aides to urge him to be more publicly critical of the prime minister over his country's military operation in Gaza, according to six people familiar with the conversations, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss internal deliberations.

The president, a staunch supporter of Israel who has known Netanyahu for more than 40 years, has been largely reluctant to take his private frustrations public so far, according to the people. But he is slowly warming to the idea, they said, as Netanyahu continues to infuriate Biden officials with public humiliations and prompt rejections of basic U.S. demands.

Netanyahu has angered U.S.

SEE BIDEN ON A8

U.S.-Israel talks: Biden presses counterpart on release deal. **A11**

European allies riled by Trump comments

BY JOBY WARRICK, MICHAEL BIRNBAUM AND EMILY RAUHALA

Former president Donald Trump's claim that he would encourage Russia to attack U.S. allies if they failed to spend enough on their defense pact set off fresh tremors Sunday across Washington and in European countries already worried about America's reliability as an ally in a potential second Trump administration.

“One of the presidents of a big country stood up and said, ‘Well, sir, if we don't pay and we're attacked by Russia, will you protect us?’” Trump told an audience at a campaign rally in South Carolina. “I said, ‘You didn't pay. You're delinquent.’ He said, ‘Yes, let's say that happened.’ No, I would not protect you. In fact, I would encourage them to do whatever the hell they want.” The anecdote sparked cheers and applause from the attendees.

The Biden administration immediately blasted the remarks as “appalling and unhinged.”

Trump has long rallied against what he sees as European countries' freeloading on U.S. military

SEE TRUMP ON A10

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The talk surrounding Donald Trump's possible running mates proves Republicans do believe in identity politics, Monica Hesse writes. **C1**

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