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Democracy Dies in Darkness

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2023 · \$3

In House, a vote to formalize inquiry

GOP seeks stronger legal footing in impeachment probe of Biden's finances

BY JACQUELINE ALEMANY AND MATT VISER

House Republicans voted Wednesday to formally authorize an impeachment inquiry against President Biden in an effort to strengthen their oversight powers as Republican lawmakers continue to investigate the Biden family's finances.

The inquiry, which was launched without a vote in September by Rep. Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.), then serving as speaker, has so far been unable to prove the GOP's claim that Biden benefited financially from his son's foreign investment deals.

The vote brought about by Speaker Mike Johnson (R-La.), however, had near-unanimous support among Republicans and comes after the president's son Hunter Biden on Wednesday defied a congressional subpoena in the probe. Joe Biden is the eighth president to face an impeachment investigation.

No Democrats voted in support of the measure, which passed on a vote of 221-212.

Ahead of the vote, Democrats took to the House floor to denounce SEE IMPEACHMENT ON A2

Hunter Biden: President's son gives defiant public comments. A18

Deal calls for moving away from fossil fuels

Surprise climate accord addresses issue that predecessors had skirted

> BY CHICO HARLAN, MAXINE JOSELOW AND TIMOTHY PUKO

DUBAI - Breaking a deadlock that had hindered climate talks for three decades, nations Wednesday struck a deal that calls for tackling the root cause of the climate crisis: fossil fuels.

The final agreement at the U.N. Climate Change Conference in Dubai, known as COP28, explicitly recommends "transitioning away from fossil fuels" such as oil, gas and coal that are dangerously heating Earth. That pledge - an obvious step, given the science is nonetheless a breakthrough for the U.N. climate talks, which require consensus on final agreement. It also comes after several major countries fought furiously to preserve their right to extract wealth from under layers of earth.

Not even the landmark 2015 Paris agreement had specifically mentioned fossil fuel use, instead focusing on the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. More than any climate deal before it, the new pact reflects a recognition that the world is doing more harm SEE FOSSIL FUELS ON A13

Climate rethink: Rapid warming casts doubt on 1.5C threshold. A12

Deal would move Caps, Wizards to Virginia



Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin on Wednesday at the site of a proposed Alexandria arena for the Capitals and Wizards franchises.

D.C.'s negotiations: Critics say mayor's offer is too little, too late. **B1**

Candace Buckner: From Leonsis, betrayal and broken promises. D1

MANY HURDLES FOR \$2 BILLION PROPOSAL

A coup for Youngkin on handshake agreement

BY SAM FORTIER, TEO ARMUS AND LAURA VOZZELLA

The owner of the Washington Wizards and Capitals has reached a nonbinding agreement to move the teams from downtown D.C. to a future arena in Northern Virginia as soon as 2028, shaking the regional sports landscape and teeing up sharp debate among local and state lawmakers who could make or break the deal.

Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin (R) and Ted Leonsis, owner of Monumental Sports & Entertainment, announced the proposal Wednesday, standing on a dirt lot in Alexandria's Potomac Yard neighborhood where they hope a \$2 billion, 12-acre mixed-use complex will rise.

While no official deal has been signed, Youngkin said he felt confident enough to join Leonsis and others in making the details public. "This is the exact same process we undertook with HQ2," Youngkin said, referring to Amazon's East Coast headquarters in nearby Arlington County. "It's an agreement — a very formal handshake and understanding."

SEE ARENA ON A18

Humiliating images of Palestinians condemned

Claims that detainees were Hamas militants come under scrutiny

BY KAREEM FAHIM, WILLIAM BOOTH. **SUFIAN TAHA** AND HAZEM BALOUSHA

The images of the Palestinian men, stripped to their underwear, forced to kneel, some bound, some blindfolded in the custody of Israeli soldiers, were certain to provoke extreme emotions.

When they exploded on social media, similar language across multiple tweets suggested a campaign - organized or spontaneous — to get them to the public.

As photos and video spread on

X, Facebook and other platforms last week, they were picked up by Israeli media. "Images circulate of dozens of Hamas terrorists surrendering in Gaza," the Jerusalem Post trumpeted in a typical headline. Israel's military, which censors the Israeli media, did not object to the characterization or prevent the images' spread.

Many in Israel viewed the images as evidence of victory over the militants who rampaged through Israeli communities on Oct. 7, killing 1,200 people. Or righteous vengeance.

Quickly, though, claims that the detainees were Hamas militants were challenged. Palestinians in Gaza identified relatives who they said were not fighters. Some of them were released. The images, rights activists say, began to convey something different,

SEE **DETAINEES** ON **A9**



An Israeli soldier stands by a truck filled with Palestinian detainees in the Gaza Strip on Friday. Rights activists call the actions in the images an attempt to humiliate and dehumanize Palestinians.

Hostages: Biden meets with relatives of Americans held by Hamas. A10

IMPERFECT UNION

A sliver of voters will wield outsize power in '24

Electoral college result to turn on a small segment of people in a declining number of swing states

BY MICHAEL SCHERER, CLARA ENCE MORSE, JOSH DAWSEY AND MARIANNE LEVINE

Arlando Monk is an increasingly rare find in presidential politics: a voter whose choices matter.

The Black entrepreneur lives in Wisconsin, one of seven expected battlegrounds in the 2024 presidential race. He is registered to vote but not sure he will bother. He has not decided between former president Donald Trump or President Biden, if those are the majorparty options

"If it's between them, I'm going to say this: Trump was hilarious. He was hilarious," said Monk, 43, who lives in the Milwaukee area. Biden, meanwhile, has not delivered the change he expected, leaving Monk unsure. "I would say, it's kind of up in the air."

If U.S. presidents were selected through the principle of "one person, one vote" that governs legisla-

SEE **ELECTIONS** ON ${\bf A6}$



People at August's GOP presidential debate in Milwaukee. Wisconsin is now a key election state.

Tesla recall affects over 2 million vehicles

NHTSA says carmaker will update 'insufficient' Autopilot software

This article is by Faiz Siddiqui, Leo Sands, Aaron Gregg, Trisha Thadani $and\,Rachel\,Lerman$

Federal safety regulators announced the largest recall in Tesla's 20-year history on Wednesday, as the carmaker began distributing fixes to more than 2 million vehicles equipped with Autopilot systems found to have "insufficient" safeguards against driver

The voluntary recall amounts to a sweeping rebuke of the nation's premier electric vehicle maker by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the agency charged with regulating vehicles on American roads. In a statement, the agency said Tesla had done too little to ensure that drivers pay attention to the road while its Autopilot driver-assistance system is activated.

"There may be an increased risk of a crash" when the system is engaged, the agency wrote, "and the driver does not maintain responsibility for vehicle operation and is unprepared to intervene as necessary.'

The recall comes three days after The Washington Post published an investigation that identified at least eight fatal or serious crashes involving Tesla drivers using Autopilot on roads where the software was not intended to be used. In user manuals, legal documents and communications with federal regulators, Tesla has acknowledged that Autosteer, Autopilot's key feature, is "intended for use on controlled-access high-SEE TESLA ON A16

Autopilot: Improper use had deadly outcomes, Post finds. A17

IN THE NEWS

Markets cheer Fed news The Dow Jones Industrial Average set a record amid signs that 2024 will yield interest-rate cuts. A15

Gravitas personified Actor Andre Braugher, who died this week at 61, practiced total and absolute dedication to understanding his characters. Obituary, B4. Appreciation, C1

THE NATION

Rep. Elise Stefanik (R-N.Y.) has become the face of a movement against elite colleges. A3 The Supreme Court took up a challenge to a law used to charge Capitol riot defendants. A4

THE WORLD

Kyiv was hit by a barrage of ballistic missiles, injuring dozens and damaging buildings, after a cyberattack disabled Ukraine's largest mobile phone and internet service provider. A8

THE ECONOMY Digital activist Nandi-

ni Jammi hits far-right influencers where it hurts: their advertising revenue. A14

Capping its final policy meeting of the year, the Fed again left interest rates flat and indicated it might cut borrowing costs in 2024. A15

THE REGION

Prince William County's board voted to approve a controversial data center project in a mostly rural area. B1 A judge ruled the Virginia NAACP cannot access a database the governor uses to decide whether to restore felons' voting rights. B1

STYLE In a new painting of

Oprah Winfrey at the National Portrait Gallery, an olive branch speaks volumes. C1

LOCAL LIVING

Homeowners explain how they transformed garages into a dance studio, a social club, a DIY workshop and more.

BUSINESS NEWS OPINION PAGES

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