



Sunny, windy 62/41 • Tomorrow: Rain 64/52 B6

Democracy Dies in Darkness

FRIDAY, MARCH 29, 2024 • \$3

## Demise of arena deal is costly for Youngkin

Business-oriented leader fails to sway legislature on legacy-making project

BY GREGORY S. SCHNEIDER

RICHMOND — No Virginia governor has come into office with a deeper dealmaking background than Glenn Youngkin, who as former co-chief executive of the Carlyle Group made a fortune acquiring and merging companies around the globe.

But as the Republican chief executive of a purple state, Youngkin has struggled to translate that business acumen into political success — or even economic development success, with the demise Wednesday of his much-touted plan to bring the Washington Wizards and Capitals to Alexandria.

While Youngkin and his group of financial experts had negotiated with team owner Ted Leonsis to cut what the governor called “the single largest economic development deal in Virginia’s history,” the governor was never able to work the same magic with members of the General Assembly who had to sign off on the \$2 billion project.

SEE YOUNGKIN ON A10

## In Jerusalem, a Holy Week gathering



OHAD ZWIGENBERG/AP

Catholic clergy hold candles Thursday during a procession as part of the ceremonial washing of feet at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in the Old City of Jerusalem, the site where many Christians believe Jesus was crucified, buried and rose from the dead. The ceremony is part of Holy Week, which leads up to Easter Sunday.

## Focus shifts to massive cleanup

DANGEROUS WORK AFTER COLLAPSE

Aid flows to Baltimore in race to reopen port traffic

BY JUSTIN JOUVENAL, JACOB BOGAGE AND ERIN COX

Huge crane ships, thousands of relief workers and millions of dollars headed toward Baltimore on Thursday, as efforts turned from recovery after the collapse of the Francis Scott Key Bridge to a massive cleanup that some experts described as unprecedented and highly dangerous.

The U.S. Navy deployed several floating cranes, including one that could lift 1,000 tons, while the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers said it would send more than 1,100 engineering specialists and other experts to begin removing the hulking debris that has crippled the Port of Baltimore.

Federal officials also announced that the first relief funds — \$60 million sought by Maryland officials — would flow toward disaster recovery just hours after the request was submitted.

Top officials with the Corps, which is leading the effort to clear the Patapsco River, described a three-step effort to get

SEE BRIDGE ON A8

## S.C. to use election map that was deemed illegal

Panel rules that time has run out to redraw before election as appeal pends

BY PATRICK MARLEY

In a scenario that has played out in three states in recent years, a federal court ruled Thursday that time had run out to draw a new congressional district in South Carolina and that the state would have to proceed this fall with an existing election map the court had previously deemed illegal.

The ruling echoes redistricting cases in other Southern states where courts found that congressional maps violated the voting rights of Black voters and

other people of color but allowed them to be used anyway, at least temporarily. In recent years, that happened in Alabama, Georgia and Louisiana.

In the latest instance, a panel of three judges decided to let South Carolina use a new map drawn by the Republican-led legislature because the Supreme Court had not yet decided an appeal that will ultimately determine how the district should be drawn. Voting rights advocates decried the ruling, saying it is unjust to hold even one election in districts that are unconstitutional.

“Once an election happens, you kind of can’t get back that election,” said Leah Aden, senior counsel for the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, which brought the South Carolina lawsuit.

SEE SOUTH CAROLINA ON A10

## AI hustlers stole women’s faces to put in ads. The law can’t help them.

Deepfakes of ordinary people are hawking often offensive wares, ideas

BY NITASHA TIKU AND PRANSHU VERMA



SANDY HUFFAKER FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Michel Janse was on her honeymoon when she found out she had been cloned.

The 27-year-old content creator was with her husband in a rented cabin in snowy Maine when messages from her followers began trickling in, warning that a YouTube commercial was using her likeness to promote erectile dysfunction supplements.

The commercial showed Janse — a Christian social media influencer who posts about travel, home decor and wedding planning — in her real bedroom, wearing her real clothes but describing a nonexistent partner with sexual health problems.

“Michael spent years having a lot of difficulty maintaining an erection and having a very small member,” her doppelgänger says in the ad.

Christian social media influencer Michel Janse records a video this month in her home in Oceanside, Calif. AI was used to create a video with Janse’s likeness for an advertisement.

Princess Catherine: Some social media users claim royal’s video was AI-generated. Experts disagree. A15

Scammers appeared to have stolen and manipulated her most popular video — an emotional account of her earlier divorce — probably using a new wave of artificial intelligence tools that make it easier to create realistic deepfakes, a catchall term for media altered or created with AI.

With just a few seconds of footage, scammers can now combine video and audio using tools from companies like HeyGen and Eleven Labs to generate a synthetic version of a real person’s voice, swap out the sound on an existing video, and animate the speaker’s lips — making the doctored result more believable.

Because it’s simpler and cheaper to base fake videos on real content, bad actors are scooping

SEE CLONING ON A16

## ‘Envoy’ pushes Trump’s foreign policy goals

Grenell’s meetings with far-right leaders worry career diplomats

BY BETH REINHARD, JON SWAINE AND AARON SCHAFFER

After an anti-corruption crusader unexpectedly won last year’s presidential election in Guatemala, democracy teetered on the edge in the Central American country. Amid law enforcement raids on election offices and threats of violence, the Biden administration worked feverishly to lay the groundwork for a peaceful transfer of power.

But not Richard Grenell, a for-

mer diplomat and intelligence official in Donald Trump’s administration, who arrived in Guatemala in January, days before the new president was to be sworn in — and threw his support behind a right-wing campaign to undermine the election.

Grenell met with a hard-line group that sued to block the inauguration. The group thanked him for his “visit and trust.” He defended Guatemalan officials who had seized ballot boxes in an effort to overturn a vote declared “free and fair” by the United States and international observers, and he attacked the U.S. State Department’s sanctions against hundreds of anti-democratic actors.

“They are trying to intimidate conservatives in Guatemala,” Grenell said in a television inter-

SEE GRENELL ON A4

## IN THE NEWS

**Big Oil reservations** Some top industry executives are not enthusiastic about a potential second Trump term because his policies could spark a global trade war. A15

**Opening Day** The Nationals lose to the Reds and the Orioles rout the Angels as the baseball season begins in earnest. D1

**THE NATION** President Biden’s pick to be the first Muslim American appeals court judge is in jeopardy. A2  
**Donald Trump’s** attacks on early and mail-in voting complicate the GOP’s election plans. A3

**THE WORLD** Jordan’s security establishment is struggling to contain growing pro-Gaza protests. A12  
**An amazingly** well-preserved village sheds light on Britain’s Bronze Age. A14

**THE REGION** One person was killed, and four more injured, after a fire erupted at an apartment building in Northwest D.C. B1  
**A shift** to cooler weather has helped to prolong the bloom period for cherry blossoms in Washington into a third weekend. B1

**STYLE** A year after Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich was detained in Russia, his sister fights on. C1  
**Staffers** at NBC and MSNBC are placing bets on whom to blame for the debacle that was the hiring (and unhiring) of Ronna McDaniel. C1

**SPORTS** The NCAA women’s basketball tournament resumes today as the first of the Sweet 16 games tip off. D1

**WEEKEND** You can pretend it’s still the Prohibition era — without the fear of a police raid — when you step into a speakeasy.

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TELEVISION.....C4  
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The Washington Post  
Year 147, No. 53805

