

Deal is struck to keep Caps, Wizards in D.C. for 25 years

This article is by Jonathan O’Connell, Teo Armus, Gregory S. Schneider, Michael Brice-Saddler and Meagan Flynn

D.C. Mayor Muriel E. Bowser and Ted Leonsis, owner of the Wizards and Capitals, signed a deal Wednesday that — if approved by the D.C. Council — would keep the teams in downtown D.C. until 2050, abruptly ending the owner’s planned move to Virginia.

Under the terms of the deal, D.C. will spend \$515 million over three years to help Leonsis modernize the arena, and Leonsis will sign a new lease keeping the teams in D.C. for 25 more years.

The agreement includes other provisions that address some of Leonsis’s concerns about the state of downtown, which has struggled to recover from the pandemic, and allow his company, Monumental Sports &

Bowser-Leonsis pact spells end of move to Virginia

Entertainment, to expand in the city.

Among the provisions to which the two sides have tentatively agreed, D.C. would allow Leonsis to take over the Gallery Place retail center, assume management of the Mystics home arena in Southeast D.C., utilize

parking at some District-owned buildings for Monumental employees, keep a minimum number of police officers downtown and plan for a new future downtown practice facility for the Wizards.

The agreement marks a sharp change in plans for Leonsis, who

three months ago joined Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin (R) to announce a handshake agreement to build a new arena in the Potomac Yard area of Alexandria as part of a \$2.2 billion mixed-use development. Although the Virginia House of Delegates gave the idea initial approval, the proposal never passed the Senate, thanks chiefly to a powerful Democratic senator who opposed it, and was left out of the state’s budget.

In a joint interview with The Washington Post on Wednesday, the mayor and owner said they had stayed in regular touch since Leonsis’s announcement in Virginia.

“We appreciated our discussions about how we could grow together,” Bowser said. She said after Leonsis’s announcement

SEE ARENA ON A7

Candace Buckner: City’s teams are staying where they belong. **D1**

Two bodies found as recovery process begins

Mourning for six lost workers spans borders

BY TEO ARMUS, EMILY DAVIES AND JASMINE HILTON

The Key Bridge, now twisted wreckage submerged in the Patapsco, once held six men high above the river. They were fathers, husbands and hard workers who had traveled to this country for lives they hoped would be prosperous and long.

Then a container ship lost power and slammed into a concrete pier, and the Baltimore bridge plunged into the water. With it went the six men, officials said, all of them construction workers with Brawner Builders, repairing



Maynor Suazo Sandoval

masonry and potholes. They are now presumed dead. Divers on Wednesday found a red pickup truck beneath 25 feet of water. Inside of it, two of the men.

More than a day after the disastrous collapse, there was still little known about their deaths: why the ship crashed, why the bridge fell and what happened in those final moments when the men were suspended in the air. But their losses have left an international trail of grief — the victims were from Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador — and from the web of people who loved them have come stories about their lives.

Maynor Suazo Sandoval, from Honduras, was about to turn 39. Miguel Luna, from El Salvador, was a father of three. Both were members of the immigrant organization Casa. Both loved soccer.

SEE VICTIMS ON A8



STEVE HELBER/AP

PERSPECTIVE

Its rise echoed its civic ambition. Its demise invites a darker lore.

BY PHILIP KENNICOTT

The video of the Francis Scott Key Bridge’s collapse now exists as a global icon, giving several billion people a seemingly intimate and shocking memory of a bridge they may never have seen or heard of until social media and journalism made it ubiquitous.

The video is fascinating, terrifying, mesmerizing, and it may confirm superstitions we often feel about things beyond our individual comprehension. How is it that airplanes stay up in the

air, and tunnels don’t collapse under the weight of water and earth? Even the most agnostic brains will make quiet and reflexive supplication for protection before crossing a bridge as dramatic as the one that collapsed this week.

The loss of the bridge is first a human tragedy, for those injured or killed by its collapse. And then it is an economic shock, with a radiating toll that won’t be fully understood for years, and perhaps decades. But it’s also a powerful symbolic shock,

SEE KENNICOTT ON A9

Dirty fuel: Experts say contamination could have led to loss of power. **A7**



STEPHEN MUNDAY/ALLSPORT/GETTY IMAGES

TOP: Baltimore’s Francis Scott Key Bridge after it was struck by a ship. **ABOVE:** The bridge in 1998. The engineering of the long, steel-truss bridge was fundamental to its beauty, but also the speed at which it crumbled early Tuesday.

Reconstruction: Rebuilding bridge is expected to take years. **B1**

JOSEPH I. LIEBERMAN 1942-2024

A four-term U.S. senator who went his own way

BY MICHAEL H. BROWN

Joseph I. Lieberman, the doggedly independent four-term U.S. senator from Connecticut who was the Democratic nominee for vice president in 2000, becoming the first Jewish candidate on the national ticket of a major party, died March 27 in New York City. He was 82.

The cause was complications from a fall, his family said in a statement.

Mr. Lieberman viewed himself as a centrist Democrat, solidly in his party’s mainstream with his support of abortion rights, environmental protections, gay rights and gun control. But he was also unafraid to stray from Democratic orthodoxy, most notably in his consistently hawkish stands on foreign policy.



2010 PHOTO BY MELINA MARA/THE WASHINGTON POST

Joseph I. Lieberman considered himself a centrist Democrat but in 2006 ran as an independent to keep his Senate seat. His selection as Al Gore’s running mate marked a first for a Jewish candidate.

His full-throated support of the 2003 invasion of Iraq and the increasingly unpopular war that followed doomed Mr. Lieberman’s bid for the Democratic presidential nomination in 2004 and led to his rejection by Connecticut Democrats when he sought his fourth Senate term in 2006. He kept his seat by running that November as an independent candidate and attracting substantial support from Republican and unaffiliated voters.

“I have not always fit comfortably into conventional political boxes,” Mr. Lieberman said near the end of his Senate career, an understatement that tiptoed around the anger his maverick ways stoked among many liberals.

His transition from Al Gore’s

SEE LIEBERMAN ON A15

Rising heat alters spin of planet — and our clocks

Melting glaciers add slop and wobble to the precise science of timekeeping

BY JOEL ACHENBACH

Climate change is messing with time itself.

The melting of polar ice due to global warming is affecting Earth’s rotation and could have an impact on precision timekeeping, according to a paper published Wednesday in the journal Nature.

The planet is not about to jerk to a halt, nor speed up so rapidly that everyone gets flung into space. But timekeeping is an exact science in a highly techno-

logical society, which is why global authorities more than half a century ago felt compelled by the slight changes in Earth’s rotation to invent the concept of the “leap second.”

Climate change is now making these calculations even more complicated: In just a few years it may be necessary to insert a “negative leap second” into the calendar to get the planet’s rotation in sync with Coordinated Universal Time.

“Global warming is managing to actually measurably affect the rotation of the entire Earth,” said study author Duncan Agnew, a geophysicist at the University of California at San Diego. “Things are happening that have not happened before.”

SEE SECOND ON A6

IN THE NEWS

Dengue cases spike Puerto Rico declared an epidemic of the mosquito-borne illness amid an uptick in hospitalizations. **A6**

Gun control in Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin vetoed a slate of bills that included an assault weapons ban but signed two firearm-related measures. **B1**

THE NATION **Texas’s** immigration law will remain on hold after a divided appeals court’s ruling. **A3** **Donors** with business in Florida helped buoy the end of Ron DeSantis’s presidential bid. **A4**

THE WORLD **An Israeli-held** Palestinian’s treatment has drawn attention from the United States. **A12** **Battlefield** tactics are shifting as the pace and intensity of fighting in Gaza slows. **A14**

THE ECONOMY **Americans** have fought for years over how much to tax the highest earners. Biden’s budget has some novel ideas. **A16** **A newly** finalized rule requires oil and gas companies to stem the release of methane from drilling on federal and tribal lands. **A20**

THE REGION **Parents** and child-care advocates are fearful of cuts to a first-of-its-kind fund for those who work with young children. **B1** **A D.C. woman** was arrested on charges of first-degree murder and kidnapping in a missing-person case from October. **B1**

SPORTS **The Orioles** sale to Baltimore native David Rubenstein was approved by owners just in time for Opening Day. **D1**

LOCAL LIVING **Living fences** such as hedgerows can serve both a functional and aesthetically pleasing purpose.

BUSINESS NEWS.....	A16
COMICS.....	C6
OPINION PAGES.....	A17
OBITUARIES.....	B3
TELEVISION.....	C3
WORLD NEWS.....	A12

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