

## E.U. forges leading legislation on AI risks

After 37 hours of talks, landmark deal focuses on transparency and usage

BY ANTHONY FAIOLA, CAT ZAKRZEWSKI AND BEATRIZ RÍOS

European Union officials reached a landmark deal Friday on the world's most ambitious law to regulate artificial intelligence, paving the way for what could become a global standard to classify risk, enforce transparency and financially penalize tech companies for noncompliance.

At a time when the sharpest critics of AI are warning of its nearly limitless threat, even as advocates herald its benefits to humanity's future, Europe's AI Act seeks to ensure that the technology's exponential advances are accompanied by monitoring and oversight, and that its highest-risk uses are banned. Tech companies that want to do business in the 27-nation bloc of 450 million consumers — the West's single largest — would be compelled to disclose data and do rigorous testing, particularly for "high-risk" applications in products like self-driving cars and medical equipment.

Dragos Tudorache, a Romanian lawmaker co-leading the AI Act negotiations, hailed the deal as a template for regulators around the world scrambling to make sense of the economic benefits and societal dangers presented by artificial intelligence, especially since last year's release of the popular chatbot ChatGPT.

"The work that we have  
SEE AI ON A12

## Key staffers at OpenAI had concerns about Altman

BY NITASHA TIKU

This fall, a small number of senior leaders approached the board of OpenAI with concerns about chief executive Sam Altman.

Altman — a revered mentor, prodigious start-up investor and avatar of the AI revolution — had been psychologically abusive, the employees alleged, creating pockets of chaos and delays at the artificial-intelligence start-up, according to two people familiar with the board's thinking who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive internal matters. The company leaders, a group that included key figures and people who manage large teams, mentioned Altman's allegedly pitting employees against each other in unhealthy ways, the people said.

Although the board members didn't use the language of abuse to describe Altman's behavior, these complaints echoed some of their interactions with Altman over the years, and they had already been debating the board's ability to hold the CEO accountable. Several board members thought Altman had lied to them, for example, as part of a campaign to remove board member Helen Toner after she published a paper criticizing OpenAI, the people said.

The new complaints triggered a  
SEE ALTMAN ON A12



ARDEN S. BARNES FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

## The rape victim who moved voters

After her abortion ad helped Kentucky's Democratic governor win reelection, she's ready for 2024

BY CAROLINE KITCHENER

MIDWAY, KY. — One month before the governor thanked her for his victory, Hadley Duvall had already won.

Standing in the middle of a football field in mid-October, she looked out at the students of her small Christian university, stunned to be the one wearing the rhinestone tiara. Her classmates could have chosen to honor the student body president or a leading member of the local Bible study. Instead, they'd picked Hadley, the face of a viral ad about abortion and sexual abuse that had begun airing a month earlier, and would soon help Democrats hold the governor's mansion in one of the most conservative states in the country.

"They don't hate me," Duvall, 21, recalled thinking as she accepted a bouquet of red roses from her college president. "They made me homecoming queen."

By the night of the football game at Midway University, pretty much everyone sitting on the bleachers knew the secret Duvall had kept for 10 years: She'd been raped throughout childhood by her stepfather, who pleaded guilty to rape, sodomy and sexual abuse, and is now serving 20 years in prison. He started sexually abusing her when she was 5 years old,

according to police reports — at first convincing her that his behavior was normal, then holding her down when she finally realized it was not.

Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear's reelection campaign learned about Duvall because of a Facebook post about her experience she had written on June 25, 2022, the day after the Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade*. The ruling triggered a near-total abortion ban in Kentucky, one of 12 states with a recently enacted ban that makes no exceptions for rape or incest. Days after she heard from Beshear's team, Duvall was sitting in the dining room of a wealthy Beshear supporter she didn't know, staring into a video camera. She aimed her words directly at the Republican candidate for governor, who for months had thrown his full support behind the current version of Kentucky's law before conceding late in the campaign that he was open to additional exceptions.

"This is to you, Daniel Cameron," Duvall said in the ad, her blue eyes narrowed in anger.

"To tell a 12-year-old girl she must have the baby of her stepfather who raped her is unthinkable. I'm speaking out because women and girls need to have options. Daniel Cameron  
SEE ABORTION ON A6



COURTESY OF HADLEY DUVALL

**TOP:** Hadley Duvall puts on a jacket before leaving her apartment to go to Midway University. She is wearing a cast after wrist surgery for an athletic injury. **ABOVE:** Duvall on her 12th birthday. Her stepfather would soon impregnate her.

## A soldier, a Camp Fire Girl and a bond built on letters

A care package started a lasting friendship that culminated in a meeting 56 years later

BY SUSAN SVRLUGA

Col. Ned Edward Felder was serving in Vietnam when he was surprised by a care package from a stranger. It wasn't the contents that touched him; it was the idea that someone had taken the trouble to send it. Alone in the midst of a war thousands of miles from his own home and family, the kindness felt enormous.

Kristina Olson, a shy 12-year-old girl who had knocked on neighbors' doors in Michigan to ask for donations to send to soldiers as part of a Camp Fire group, was just as surprised, and delighted, when she saw that a stranger had taken the time to write a thank-you note for the gift.

So, she wrote back.

And thus, in 1967, began an unlikely friendship, an exchange of letters that spanned years, continents and deep cultural divides. Felder was 30 years old, a Black man raised in poverty in South Carolina who had lifted himself through college and law school and had become a captain in the U.S. Army. Olson, who is White,



SOUTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY

**Kris Feeney and Col. Ned Felder meet for the first time, 56 years after she sent a care package to him in Vietnam.**

wrote to him about her school, which was in an apple orchard. About Camp Fire Girls, practicing piano and learning to play the French horn.

His letters, arriving with exotic stamps, were written like novels, she said. She worked hard on her replies, awed by the standard he had set with his writing.

"I couldn't just jot a note back to him," she said. "I had to compose a good letter." Her life was sheltered, and she was grateful for the glimpse at a larger world, as well as his kindness. "He made me want to be a better person," said Olson, now 68.

He sent her a book about Vietnam, a doll in a silk tunic, and a Christmas card with a soldier silhouetted against the night sky, looking up at a bright star overhead.

"For someone who did not know anyone over there to be so kind to a stranger — that's heartwarming," Felder, now 86, said this week. "That means a lot. That's what life is all about."

After a decade, the letters dwined  
SEE LETTERS ON A5

## U.N.: Aid for Gaza in 'tatters'

A U.S. VETO DOOMS CEASE-FIRE MEASURE

Humanitarian crisis deepens amid assault

This article is by Hazem Balousha, Kareem Fahim, Paul Schemm, Karen DeYoung and Ruby Mellen

AMMAN, JORDAN — The United States for the third time vetoed a U.N. Security Council resolution calling for an immediate humanitarian cease-fire in Gaza on Friday as U.N. officials warned that humanitarian operations in the densely populated enclave have largely fallen apart amid Israel's ferocious military campaign to destroy the militant Hamas network.

The council voted 13-1 to approve the measure — supporters included close U.S. allies France and Japan — but the U.S. veto ensured its failure. Robert A. Wood, the alternate U.S. representative to the international organization, described the resolution as "rushed" and lacking consultation.

Ahead of the vote, U.N. Secretary General António Guterres warned of a complete breakdown in public order and the potential mass displacement of Palestinians to Egypt.

Israel has argued that a cease-fire  
SEE GAZA ON A9

**World Food Program:** Divisions over Gaza stoke a confrontation. **A9**

**Menorah toppled:** Vandalism in Md. on first day of Hanukkah. **B1**

## In milestone, FDA backs treatments for sickle cell

BY CAROLYN Y. JOHNSON

In a major advance, the Food and Drug Administration on Friday approved two gene therapies that target sickle cell disease, one of which is the first commercially available treatment in the United States based on gene-editing technology. The historic move offers hope for a long-overlooked genetic illness that can cause excruciating pain and cut decades off people's lives. It also cracks the door open for a new era in medicine.

One of the new treatments, named Casgevy, is based on CRISPR, a gene-editing tool that moved lightning-fast from a scientific breakthrough in 2012 to a therapy that can alleviate suffering. In the wake of the FDA approval, experts anticipate that treating sickle cell disease will be the first of many medical applications for this technology.

The other treatment, developed by Bluebird Bio and called Lyfgenia, uses a harmless virus to insert a gene into a patient's stem cells. The treatments are approved for patients 12 and older who experience repeated pain episodes.

"I've been taking care of kids with sickle cell for over 30 years, and I've been waiting for something like this to happen for a long, long time," said Lewis Hsu,  
SEE SICKLE CELL ON A7

### IN THE NEWS

**Just a respite** A lull in wildfire activity this year, especially in the Western United States, is unlikely to be repeated, observers say. **A3**

**Financial aid expanded** The University of Virginia will cover tuition and fees for students whose families who make less than \$100,000 per year, under a new plan. **B1**

**THE NATION**  
**Families who** cross the U.S.-Mexico border illegally cannot be separated, after a settlement. **A3**  
**A federal appeals** court narrowed a gag order against Donald Trump in his D.C. trial. **A4**

**THE WORLD**  
**Officials in** Ukraine try to stem the tide of draft dodgers leaving the country. **A8**  
**Vladimir Putin** said he will seek a new term in 2024, extending his hold on power in Russia. **A10**

**THE ECONOMY**  
**The unemployment** rate dipped to 3.7 percent in November, reflecting a labor market favorable to workers. **A4**  
**Mail carriers** overwhelmed by an influx of packages in rural Minnesota were warned not to blame Amazon for delivery delays. **A11**

**THE REGION**  
**With a tougher** winter forecast this year, schools are adjusting snow day policies, and some are dropping the virtual option. **B1**  
**A D.C. woman** accused of pushing a federal marshal in the chest in court was acquitted of assault charges. **B1**

**OBITUARIES**  
**Ryan O'Neal**, 82, was a 1970s Hollywood star whose tempestuous life eclipsed his promise. **B4**

**STYLE**  
**A threat of penalties** against a CBS journalist for not disclosing a source's identity alarmed First Amendment advocates. **C1**

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