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Democracy Dies in Darkness

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Major bill for online privacy unveiled

The bipartisan proposal would give users rights to how their data is used

BY CRISTIANO LIMA-STRONG

Key federal lawmakers Sunday unveiled a sweeping proposal that would for the first time give consumers broad rights to control how tech companies like Google, Meta and TikTok use their personal data, a major breakthrough in the decades-long fight to adopt national online privacy protections.

The bipartisan agreement, struck by Senate Commerce Committee Chair Maria Cantwell (D-Wash.) and House Energy and Commerce Committee Chair Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-Wash.), marks a milestone in the congressional debate over data privacy. The issue has befuddled lawmakers despite near-universal agreement — in Silicon Valley and in Washington — on the need for federal standards to determine how much information companies can collect from consumers online.

The measure, a copy of which was reviewed by The Washington Post, would set a national baseline for how a broad swath of companies can collect, use and transfer data on the internet. Dubbed the American Privacy Rights Act, it also would give users the right to opt out of certain data practices, including targeted advertising. And it would require companies to gather only as much information as they need to offer specific products to consumers, while giving people the ability to access and delete their data and transport it between digital services.

SEE PRIVACY ON A5



GREGORY SHAMUS/GETTY IMAGES

Raven Johnson (No. 25) and South Carolina pulled away from Caitlin Clark and Iowa in Sunday's national championship game in Cleveland. The 87-75 win capped an undefeated season and gave the Gamecocks a second title in three seasons.

PERSPECTIVE

Decades in the making and meeting the hype

South Carolina's victory is an apt finish to a season in which women's basketball soared

BY SALLY JENKINS

CLEVELAND — If the hair did not raise up on your neck, if something in your chest did not swell, if you were insensate. This was a game that, for all the divided loyalties and warring ambitions between South Carolina and Iowa, offered something that binds. It was decades in the thankless making for women's basketball, so when the acclamation finally came pouring down like the clouds of confetti Sunday afternoon, it seemed fitting that the champion cutting down the net was a pioneering coach in Dawn

Staley, whose tremendous Gamecocks held off the NCAA Division I all-time scoring leader in the rightly celebrated Caitlin Clark, 87-75, to finish 38-0.

For Staley, it was her third championship as a coach and her second in three years, her team amassing a remarkable record of 109-3 over that span. "This is uncommon favor," Staley said after throwing her arms wide to catch the paper rain. As Iowa Coach Lisa Bluder said, "She's the leader of women's basketball right now."

A five-point contest with four minutes to go, with Iowa's top-scoring of-

fense and the rivetingly imaginative Clark facing unbeaten South Carolina? Oh, yes, please. It began in a blitz of flashing lights, with school flags waving as big as medieval banners and a pandemoniac noise that steadily built to the top of Rocket Mortgage FieldHouse. It got even louder when Clark dropped 18 points in the first quarter, ripping the nets like silk. It was a classic atmosphere — and the peak of a transformative season in which the audience built by millions, thanks largely to the logo-distance shot-making of Clark, who led

SEE JENKINS ON A14

Trump floats plan to end war

LONG-SHOT IDEA HAS KYIV CEDING LAND

Experts say his proposal would reward Russia

BY ISAAC ARNSDORF, JOSH DAWSEY AND MICHAEL BIRNBAUM

Former president Donald Trump has privately said he could end Russia's war in Ukraine by pressuring Ukraine to give up some territory, according to people familiar with the plan. Some foreign policy experts said Trump's idea would reward Russian President Vladimir Putin and condone the violation of internationally recognized borders by force.

Trump's proposal consists of pushing Ukraine to cede Crimea and the Donbas border region to Russia, according to people who discussed it with Trump or his advisers and spoke on the condition of anonymity because those conversations were confidential. That approach, which has not been previously reported, would dramatically reverse President Biden's policy, which has emphasized curtailing Russian aggression and providing military aid to Ukraine.

As he seeks a return to power, the presumptive Republican nominee has frequently boasted that he could negotiate a peace deal between Russia and Ukraine within 24 hours if elected, even before taking office. But he has repeatedly declined to specify publicly how he would quickly settle a war that has raged for more than two years and killed

SEE TRUMP ON A8

Testimony sheds light on Tesla's Autopilot

BY FAIZ SIDDIQUI AND TRISHA THADANI

In Tesla's marketing materials, the company's Autopilot driver-assistance system is cast as a technological marvel that uses "advanced cameras, sensors and computing power" to steer, accelerate and brake automatically — even change lanes so "you don't get stuck behind slow cars or trucks."

Under oath, however, Tesla engineer Akshay Phatak last year described the software as fairly basic in at least one respect: the way it steers on its own.

"If there are clearly marked lane lines, the system will follow the lane lines," Phatak said under questioning in July 2023. Tesla's groundbreaking system, he said, was simply designed to follow painted lane lines.

Phatak's testimony, which was obtained by The Washington Post, came in a deposition for a wrongful-death lawsuit set for trial Tuesday. The case involves a fatal crash in March 2018, when a Tesla in Autopilot careened into a highway barrier near Mountain View, Calif., after getting confused by what the company's law-

SEE TESLA ON A7



JONATHAN NEWTON FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Will clouds spoil the solar eclipse?

BY JOEL ACHENBACH

DALLAS — Here comes the moon, finally.

Twenty-three minutes after noon local time on Monday, the moon will begin its gradual eclipsing of the sun. An hour and 17 minutes later, totality will arrive here in Dallas, and for nearly four minutes this city will go dark, animals will get confused and — if, if, if the

The stage is set, but it's unclear whether Texas will get a show

Kim Keller poses with an oversized pair of eclipse glasses during the Moon Over Main festival Saturday in Russellville, Ark.

clouds don't spoil everything — people will behold the spectacle of a total solar eclipse.

If anyone misses the event, they can catch the next one in Dallas in the year 2317.

"We mayors have the ability to call in weather when we need to," said Dallas Mayor Eric L. Johnson, who has been told that 400,000 eclipse aficionados could be streaming

SEE ECLIPSE ON A6

Some fear politics could hurt business in N.C.

As far-right contenders dominate GOP ticket, worries of mass exodus

BY DANIELLE PAQUETTE

DURHAM, N.C. — Taco Tuesday was oddly slow, but Elizabeth Turnbull wasn't worried. If roasted pork on homemade tortillas failed to lure diners on this pollen-dusted spring evening, the 42-year-old restaurant owner could count on private parties. Three companies had booked her space for next week.

Firms and universities around North Carolina's Research Triangle buoyed her Cuban eatery when tables otherwise sat empty. With a new Google office in town and Apple projected to expand nearby, she expected group orders for crispy octopus to only grow — as long as politics didn't get in the way.

Turnbull, a registered Independent, was alarmed when candidates she viewed as bad for business, all MAGA devotees prone to trumpeting conspiracy theories, recently clinched the Republican nominations for crucial state offices. There was Dan Bishop for attorney general, who had echoed false claims the 2020 election was stolen. There was Michele Morrow for the top edu-

cation seat, who had commented "Death to ALL traitors!!" under an illustration of former president Barack Obama in an electric chair. And there was Mark Robinson for governor, who had declared that transgender women should be arrested if they enter the ladies' restroom.

"My ballot is normally purple," Turnbull said. "But this? It makes me sick."

As far-right contenders dominate the GOP ticket in a state known for its flourishing economy, the business community is bracing for potential fallout — the kind that stung North Carolina eight years ago when industry rebelled against America's first "bathroom bill." That decree, which restricted public restroom use by "biological sex," crumbled just 12 months later after PayPal, CoStar, Deutsche Bank and Adidas all scrapped projects. Bruce Springsteen and other artists canceled shows. The NBA and the NCAA shuttled games and tournaments elsewhere.

The law's defenders blamed Democrats for whipping up a national controversy that spooked investment. Backlash to HB2 cost the state almost \$4 billion, Gov. Roy Cooper (D) said at the time, citing an analysis by the Associated Press that measured the impact's 12-year tail. The PayPal deal alone would have contributed more than \$200 mil-

SEE NORTH CAROLINA ON A4

IN THE NEWS

A drawdown in Gaza Israel said it was recalling all but one brigade from the south of the Palestinian enclave as it prepares for the next phase of the war. A10

House GOP retirements The decisions by 21 lawmakers to depart indicate the depths of the conference's morale problem. A3

THE NATION More than \$6 billion in federal funds will help expand a semiconductor facility in Arizona. A7
Ohio officials warned Democrats that they are in danger of missing an election deadline. A8

THE WORLD Some Japanese companies are addressing hay fever season by subsidizing employees' tropical escapes. A9
A timeline of key moments in the six-month Israel-Gaza war. A10

THE ECONOMY A \$400 toothbrush illustrates the pitfalls of AI mania, Shira Ovide writes. A11

THE REGION An entrepreneur's experience in the cannabis industry underscores a political and economic debate in Prince George's County. B1

Workers began removing containers from the deck of the Dali, which has been trapped since crashing into the Francis Scott Key Bridge. B1
The D.C. man who police say was fatally beaten by young girls in October had endured decades of health struggles, his sister said. B1

STYLE Fur and imitations of it are making their way down runways, in an apparent comeback for the controversial material. C1
In "Table for Two," a collection of short stories and a novella, author Amor Towles thrives at the crossroads of form and technique. C1

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