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Democracy Dies in Darkness

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New probe after spate of Tesla crashes

Full Self-Driving under scrutiny as carmaker gears up for wider rollout

BY IAN DUNCAN AND AARON GREGG

Federal car safety regulators are investigating reports of four crashes involving Tesla's Full Self-Driving technology that happened on roads where visibility was limited by conditions like fog and dust, the latest probe to raise questions about the safety of the electric-car maker's signature technology.

The most serious incident led to the death of a 71-year-old woman who had gotten out of her vehicle to help at a crash scene in November 2023, according to federal and state authorities.

The investigation marks another step in the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's long-running effort to scrutinize Tesla's driver-assistance systems, which have been linked to numerous crashes and multiple deaths. It highlights ongoing questions about safety even as the company is promising to put fully autonomous vehicles on the road as early as next year, a far more complicated technological feat than assisting a human driver.

The new probe's focus on bad visibility could also test Tesla chief executive Elon Musk's assertion that cameras are enough to guide its vehicles without the aid of other kinds of sensors, such as radar or lasers.

Most of the federal agency's previous work on Tesla's software has focused on the less-sophisticated Autopilot system. The new examination targets Full Self-Driving software, which the automaker advertises as allowing

SEE TESLA ON A12

For Western allies, a tenuous moment



CARSTEN KOALL/GETTY IMAGES

German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier welcomes President Joe Biden in Berlin on Friday. Biden visited to meet with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, British Prime Minister Keir Starmer and French President Emmanuel Macron. Much of their discussions focused on ways to reorient the war in Ukraine. **Story, A7**

Fallout from the death of Sinwar

U.S. PUSH FOR GAZA CEASE-FIRE TALKS

Some Israelis focus on hostages; others on Iran

BY STEVE HENDRIX AND CLAIRE PARKER

JERUSALEM — A day after learning of the death of Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar, diplomats and governments on Friday pushed to take advantage of the unexpected killing as a chance to restart moribund talks for a cease-fire in Gaza and the release of hostages.

President Joe Biden said Thursday that Secretary of State Antony Blinken would visit Israel within days in another attempt to push the process forward, while Vice President Kamala Harris said in a social media post that Sinwar's death "gives us an opportunity to finally end the war in Gaza."

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu convened an emergency meeting of security officials Friday, according to Israeli media reports, which said the discussions focused on efforts to prevent Hamas from harming the hostages to avenge Sinwar's killing. Netanyahu's office declined to comment.

It remained far from clear who would represent Hamas if talks reconvene.

In Israel, jubilation turned to speculation Friday. Even as new details emerged of Sinwar's violent last minutes, the country's entrenched factions began debating what the surprise discovered

SEE SINWAR ON A5

Banned in Gaza: WHO says Israel has blocked six medical NGOs. **A8**

U-Va.'s Bennett wouldn't cheat the game. Or himself.



Jerry Brewer

COLUMN

Tony Bennett quit before he compromised. It was the most Bennett ending ever, the truest way a man of his conviction could say goodbye.

It doesn't take 10 minutes

around Bennett to appreciate his substance, to marvel at how well he understands himself, to feel

the strength of his character regardless of whether his beliefs seem too idealistic or old-fashioned. He spent 18 years building a Hall of Fame coaching career with sincerity and grace. He developed his teams on five pillars, creating an indestructible standard. On Friday morning, he announced his retirement as the men's basketball coach at Virginia, giving it all up because he's uncertain he can tolerate the

changing sport he loves.

He's only 55, and when he flashes that boyish smile, you ignore all the gray in his hair. But Bennett is done.

During his farewell remarks at John Paul Jones Arena, Bennett lost the fight to suppress his emotions.

"I realized I'm no longer the best coach to lead this program in this current environment," he began, yielding often to tears. "And if you're going to do it,

you've got to be all-in. You have to give everything. If you do it halfhearted, then it's not fair to the university and those young men."

The anti-player-compensation faction will use his retirement to emphasize the ills of paying athletes. However, Bennett made it clear that he faults the lack of

SEE BREWER ON A11

'Not equipped to do this': Coach exits amid shifting landscape. **D1**

Housing panel center of fight over diversity initiatives

BY JULIAN MARK

Marcus Brown says the legacy of housing discrimination is easy to see in Birmingham, Ala. — just scroll through the real estate listings. Asking prices on comparable homes can differ by tens of thousands of dollars depending on a single factor: Whether the house is located in a predominantly Black or White neighborhood.

Brown, who heads Alabama's association of Black real estate professionals, blames the city's well-documented history of racist lending practices, known as redlining. But he also cites a more prosaic factor: ingrained bias in real estate appraisals.

Since 1990, Alabama has sought to counteract the imbalance by reserving two seats for minorities on the state board that licenses appraisers. The set-asides are now under attack in a case that could affect diversity requirements for scores of state and local boards across the country — and Brown's group is mounting a rare campaign to fight back.

The case is one of dozens in a broad legal campaign against affirmative action that has proved

SEE HOUSING ON A11



ADNAN BECI/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

An Italian navy ship docks in Albania with intercepted migrants for asylum review Wednesday.

Italy's novel migrant plan hits snag

Offshoring of asylum reviews intrigues Europe, but court deals a blow

BY ANTHONY FAIOLA, ZOEANN MURPHY AND STEFANO PITRELLI

GJADER, ALBANIA — Behind a high metal fence close to the edge of Europe, Italy's far-right government this week inaugurated what it hopes will be a model for solving one of the West's most politically charged problems: illegal migration.

Italy, the single biggest point of arrival for

asylum seekers making their way into the European Union from African shores, on Wednesday sent a first ship of intercepted migrants to a new asylum camp in Albania — which is not a member of the bloc. The plan is for migrants to be detained here while their asylum claims are adjudicated remotely by Italian judges.

In essence, Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni is pioneering an effort to move migra-

SEE ITALY ON A9

ELECTION 2024

Seeking a historic win, Harris faces a familiar foe: Sexism

Most voters seem open to a woman president, but many hurdles remain

BY MAEVE RESTON AND ASHLEY PARKER

LAS VEGAS — Standing in the searing Nevada heat at her job as a construction flagger shortly after Vice President Kamala Harris entered the presidential race in July, 38-year-old Sarah White was skeptical: "I don't think I would ever vote for a woman to be president," she said bluntly. "Women are kinda all over the place."

White, an independent, voted for Donald Trump in 2020 but misses the era when Bill Clinton, a Democrat, was president because "there was none of this chaos and scariness and people rioting." She believes Trump, running again this year, is "brave" and would "fight to keep us safe" at a time when she is unnerved by the number of non-English-speaking immigrants entering the country.

But she cannot stomach Trump's divisiveness, his felonies and legal dramas, and feels "embarrassed for our country" when she hears him speak.

A woman working in a male-dominated industry, she nonetheless found herself struggling in a recent follow-up interview to envision how Harris would fare as the first female commander in chief. "She seems pretty tough. I don't know, though, if she's breakable," White said. "Women — we have emotions, we have compassion and we have all these other feelings that men don't have. You know?"

Around the world, many other democratic countries, from those in Europe to South America to Asia, have elected women as leaders for decades. Yet 40 years after Geraldine Ferraro became the first female vice-presidential nominee of a major party and eight years after Hillary Clinton became the first female presidential nominee of a major party, White and thousands of voters like her are grappling with the question that still bedevils the nearly 250-year-old nation: Is America ready and willing to elect a female president?

The answer, according to polling and more than two dozen interviews with voters, experts,

SEE HARRIS ON A6

Michigan: Harris and Trump fight for edge with the working class. **A4**

Bill Clinton: "Explainer in chief" appears with Tim Walz in N.C. **A5**

IN THE NEWS

Secret Service Donald Trump's D.C. hotel charged the agency 300 percent or more above government rates, Democrats on the House Oversight Committee found. **A5**

The whole kitchen caboodle Feeding the pandas and other zoo residents who feast on bamboo is a tall order. **B1**

THE NATION

An appendix of sources was unsealed in Donald Trump's D.C. election interference case. **A2**

A National Park ranger questioned the story of how a Senate hopeful was shot in the arm. **A3**

THE WORLD

A snowboarder was accused of operating a deadly drug-trafficking organization. **A8**

A South Korean agency said 1,500 troops from North Korea's special forces are in Russia. **A9**

THE ECONOMY

A report by Sen. Edward J. Markey (D-Mass.) detailed the dangers of private equity firms taking over hospitals. **A10**

Companies that collect on medical debt say a proposal backed by Kamala Harris threatens their business. **A12**

THE REGION

A plan for affordable housing in Montgomery County is causing some friction among residents in a leafy suburban enclave. **B1**

A Maryland man was sentenced to 68 years in prison for killing his baby's mother and grandmother. **B1**

STYLE

This year, the Associated Press is offering more insight into how it calls thousands of races on election night. **C1**

SPORTS

Army and Navy are on track to meet for the AAC football title a week before their traditional rivalry game. **D1**

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