and sun, high 83. Tonight, clear, not

as breezy, low 63. Tomorrow, partly sunny, a couple of showers, high 77.

VOL. CLXXIII .... No. 60,168

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TUESDAY, MAY 28, 2024

Prices in Canada may be higher

# Weather map appears on Page A20.

\$4.00

# Israel Showing No Hint of Shift On Rafah Push

### Global Anger at Strike That Burned Camp

### By ISABEL KERSHNER

JERUSALEM — With international condemnation mounting, Prime Minister Benjamin Netan yahu of Israel said on Monday that the killing of dozens of people a day earlier at a camp for displaced Palestinians in Rafah was "a tragic accident," but gave no sign of curbing the Israeli offensive in the southern Gaza city.

The deadly fire that tore through the encampment on Sunday after an airstrike came at a particularly delicate time for Israel, just days after the International Court of Justice appeared to order the country's military to halt its offensive in Rafah and as diplomats were aiming to restart negotiations for a cease-fire deal between Israel and Hamas.

The Israel military said that the target of the strike in Rafah on Sunday was a Hamas compound, and that "precise munitions" had been used to target a commander and another senior militant official there

But at least 45 people, including children, were killed by the blast and by the fires it set off, according to the Gaza health ministry. The ministry said that 249 people were wounded.

In a speech to the Israeli Parliament on Monday, Mr. Netanyahu said the military had sought to protect noncombatants, by issuing evacuation orders, adding that about a million civilians had left Rafah ahead of, or during, the offensive. "Despite our supreme effort not to harm uninvolved civilians," he said, "a tragic accident occurred to our regret last night."

He accused Hamas of hiding among the general population, and said: "For us, every uninvolved civilian who is hurt is a tragedy. For Hamas, it's a strategy. That's the whole difference."

As images of the dead and maimed reached screens around the world, the condemnation was instant. The latest opprobrium appeared likely to make it still harder for Israel to continue its campaign against Hamas in Rafah, the

southern city to which about a mil-Continued on Page A10

By MARIA VARENIKOVA

the show snake down the block,

with people waiting for up to seven hours to buy tickets at the theater in downtown Kyiv. Videos of the performance have drawn mil-

The smash hit isn't a popular

Broadway musical or a series of concerts by a pop star — it's a play based on a classic 19th-century

Ukrainian novel, "The Witch of Konotop," and the mood is anything but upbeat. Consider the opening line: "It is sad and

Mykhailo Matiukhin, an actor in

the production, said that is what

has struck a chord with Ukraini-

ans because it shows "what we are

erything from you, your love and

The play dramatizes the story of a Cossack leader in a Ukrainian

community almost 400 years ago

as he tries to root out witches that

local townspeople believe are re-

sponsible for a drought. The ac-

tion takes place against the back-

drop of a military threat from

czarist Russia — something that

has resonated with Ukrainians to-

day as they absorb daily, and often

discouraging, news about the bat-

tlefield and brace for missile

strikes from modern Russia on

Ivan Uryvsky, the director, said

their cities at night.

"Tragedy comes and takes ev-

lions of views online.

living through now."

your home," he said.

gloomy.

KYIV. Ukraine — The lines for



NATHAN HOWARD FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Replacing a cross for a man killed by a train in Houston last year. Remote-control trains have killed three rail inspectors since 2015.

# 160-Car Locomotives With No One in the Cab A Bellicose Ally

This article is by Frances Robles, Sergio Olmos, Mark Walker and Nicholas Bogel-Burroughs.

One evening last June, as Esther Iradukunda set the table for dinner at her home in Buffalo, she heard a high-pitched cry through the kitchen window. She rushed outside and followed the screams to the train tracks that ran about 100 feet away from her house.

She found her young brother Aron lying on the tracks, run over when he chased a ball between the cars of a train that had suddenly begun to move. Now it was stopped again, but one of the boy's legs was lodged underneath, the bone jutting through the skin, and he had grave wounds to his abdo-

Ms. Iradukunda desperately pulled her brother clear just as the train began moving again, rolling slowly toward the CSX train yards about a quarter-mile away. Aron, now 10, survived but lost his right

## Concerns Raised About **Deaths From Trains** Run Remotely

Witches, Cossacks and History's Echoes in a Kyiv Theater Hit

No one from the railroad had heard the boy's screams or noticed him trapped on the tracks. The train had no conductor or engineer onboard; instead, its movement was being controlled by a remote operator who was not aboard the train and, under railroad protocols, could have been more than a half-mile away.

While trains have presented a deadly risk to pedestrians, a recent rash of accidents involving remote-control locomotives like the one in Buffalo has prompted a new federal review of the technology long billed by the railroad industry as safer than conventional trains. Railroad un-

ions have also lodged demands to step up safety measures as the trains increasingly operate on open tracks outside the confines of a rail yard. Only a few months after Aron

was hit, the body of a woman who lived nearby was found in pieces along the same tracks, in a remarkably similar accident. A railroad inspector in Ohio was

killed in September when he stepped into the path of a remotecontrolled locomotive. He was the third rail inspector since 2015 to die after being struck by a remote locomotive.

In Houston last year, an intoxicated man was found dead, with his leg severed, in an area where remote locomotives were in use. Two years earlier, a woman in the same part of Houston lost both her legs after trying to cross between cars of a remote train that began

Railroads are significantly ex-Continued on Page A18

# Eyes a Top Job If Trump Wins

### By ELIZABETH WILLIAMSON

WASHINGTON - Richard Grenell's quest to be secretary of state in a second Trump administration began late on Election Day in 2020, when the defeated president dispatched loyalists to run shambolic "stop the steal" operations in battleground states.

President Donald J. Trump tapped Mr. Grenell — his combative former ambassador to Germany, acting national intelligence chief and special envoy to the Balkans — to fly by private plane to Nevada, where Mr. Grenell ensconced himself, his dog Lola, lawyers and a crew of activists in a suite at the Venetian Resort, which served as the group's war room in Las Vegas. In a dayslong spectacle, the Trump team filed a lawsuit and aired false accusations of fraud including wrongly implicating hundreds of members of the military.

It was all a sham. Mr. Grenell told the team in the war room, two G.O.P. operatives recalled, that the Nevada vote was not, in fact, stolen. The operatives, who asked

Continued on Page A14

# BIDEN'S STRATEGY ON ELECTRIC CARS: KEEP CHINA'S OUT

### TARIFFS ON CHEAP E.V.S

### Weighing Labor Support and Climate Fears in an Election Year

### By JIM TANKERSLEY

WASHINGTON - President Biden wants more of America's cars and trucks to run on electricity, not gas. His administration has pushed that goal on multiple fronts, including strict new regulations of auto emissions and lavish new subsidies to help American consumers take as much as \$7,500 off the cost of a new electric vehicle.

Mr. Biden's aides agree that electric vehicles — which retail for more than \$53,000 on average in the United States - would sell even faster here if they were less expensive. As it happens, there is a wave of new electric vehicles significantly cheaper than the ones customers can currently buy in the United States. They are proving extremely popular in Eu-

But the president and his team do not want Americans to buy these cheap cars, which retail elsewhere for as little as \$10,000, because they are made in China. That's true even though a surge of low-cost imported electric vehicles might help drive down car prices overall, potentially helping Mr. Biden in his re-election campaign at a time when inflation remains voters' top economic con-

Instead, the president is taking steps to make Chinese electric vehicles prohibitively expensive, in large part to protect American automakers. Mr. Biden signed an executive action this month that quadruples tariffs on those cars to 100 percent.

Those tariffs will put many potential Chinese imports at a significant cost disadvantage to electric vehicles made in America. But some models, like the discount BYD Seagull, could still cost less than some American rivals even after tariffs, which is one reason Senator Sherrod Brown of Ohio and some other Democrats have called on Mr. Biden to ban Chinese E.V. imports entirely.

The apparent clash between cli-Continued on Page A15

**OUTLOOK** E.V. market could keep growing despite Donald Trump's threats to thwart it. PAGE A15

BILL WALTON, 1952-2024

# A Tie-Dyed Basketball Titan Who Added Gab to His Gifts

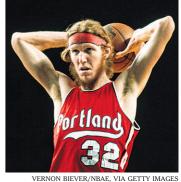
### By RICHARD SANDOMIR

Bill Walton, a center whose extraordinary passing and rebounding skills helped him win two national college championships with U.C.L.A. and one each with the Portland Trail Blazers and the Boston Celtics of the N.B.A., and who overcame a stutter to become a loquacious commentator, died on Monday at his home in San Diego. He was 71.

The N.B.A. said he died of colon cancer.

A redheaded hippie and devoted Grateful Dead fan, Walton was an acolyte of U.C.L.A. Coach John Wooden and the hub of the Bruins team that won N.C.A.A. championships in 1972 and 1973 and extended an 88-game winning streak that had begun in 1971. He was named the national player of the year three times.

Walton's greatest game was the



Bill Walton won two titles in the N.B.A. and two in college.

1973 national championship against Memphis State, played in St. Louis. He got into foul trouble in the first half, but went on to score a record 44 points on 21for-22 shooting and had 11 rebounds in U.C.L.A.'s 87-66 victory.

Continued on Page A21

Actors before a performance of "The Witch of Konotop," which is selling out in Kyiv, Ukraine.

audiences were particularly captivated by the sense of impending tragedy in the play, which is performed at the Ivan Franko theater in Kyiv.

Rather than seeking escapism from the war, many Ukrainians have been flocking to the play to help make sense of their lives, he

"It is very hard to overplay the harsh reality Ukrainians are living in now, but theater should feel the mood of the time and the people," said Mr. Uryvsky. "When it manages to do that, then the play will touch people's hearts.'

The play's success also underlines a renewed interest in Ukraine's cultural heritage since

the full-scale invasion of the country by Russia in February 2022 that has manifested itself in theater, literature and art. This includes the culture of the Cossacks, the seminomadic people who populated the steppes of Ukraine and southern Russia.

"When the war started, the new Continued on Page A8

**INTERNATIONAL A4-10** 

### Discontent in South Africa

Many young voters say they plan to sit out this week's pivotal election, a political rebuke to the A.N.C.

# Amateurs Dig Up Tudor Palace

English villagers found the remains of a long-vanished site, once home to Henry VIII's grandmother. PAGE A4

### **BUSINESS B1-4**

# Politics Overtake Hong Kong

A security law imposed by Beijing is casting a pall over Hong Kong, once a business-first city, as international companies back away. PAGE B1

# A.I.'s Diminishing Threat

With less than six months until the 2024 election, the political uses of A.I. are still mostly theoretical. PAGE B1

SPORTS B5-8

# Farewell, French Open?

Rafael Nadal lost to Alexander Zverev, but would not confirm that it was his final match on the red clay. PAGE B8



NATIONAL A12-20

### **Biden Reflects on Sacrifice**

At a Memorial Day observance, the president said that "freedom has never been guaranteed."

# Adopting a Well to Close It

Students, nonprofit groups and others are fund-raising to plug oil and gas wells abandoned by industry. PAGE A12

### ARTS C1-6

### Taking Comedy Seriously

"We Are Lady Parts," the writer Nida Manzoor's show about a Muslim female punk band, has won awards and challenged stereotypes. "Silliness is hugely important to me," she says.

### Comfortable in Any Genre

"There are no limits for music," the singer Carin León says. "There's just good music and bad music." He has been bringing the country and música Mexicana styles ever closer.

OPINION A22-23

Paul Krugman

PAGE A23



### The Resilient Tree Lobster The Lord Howe Island stick insect

vanished from its home, but an effort at zoos in San Diego and Melbourne is leading to its resurgence.

