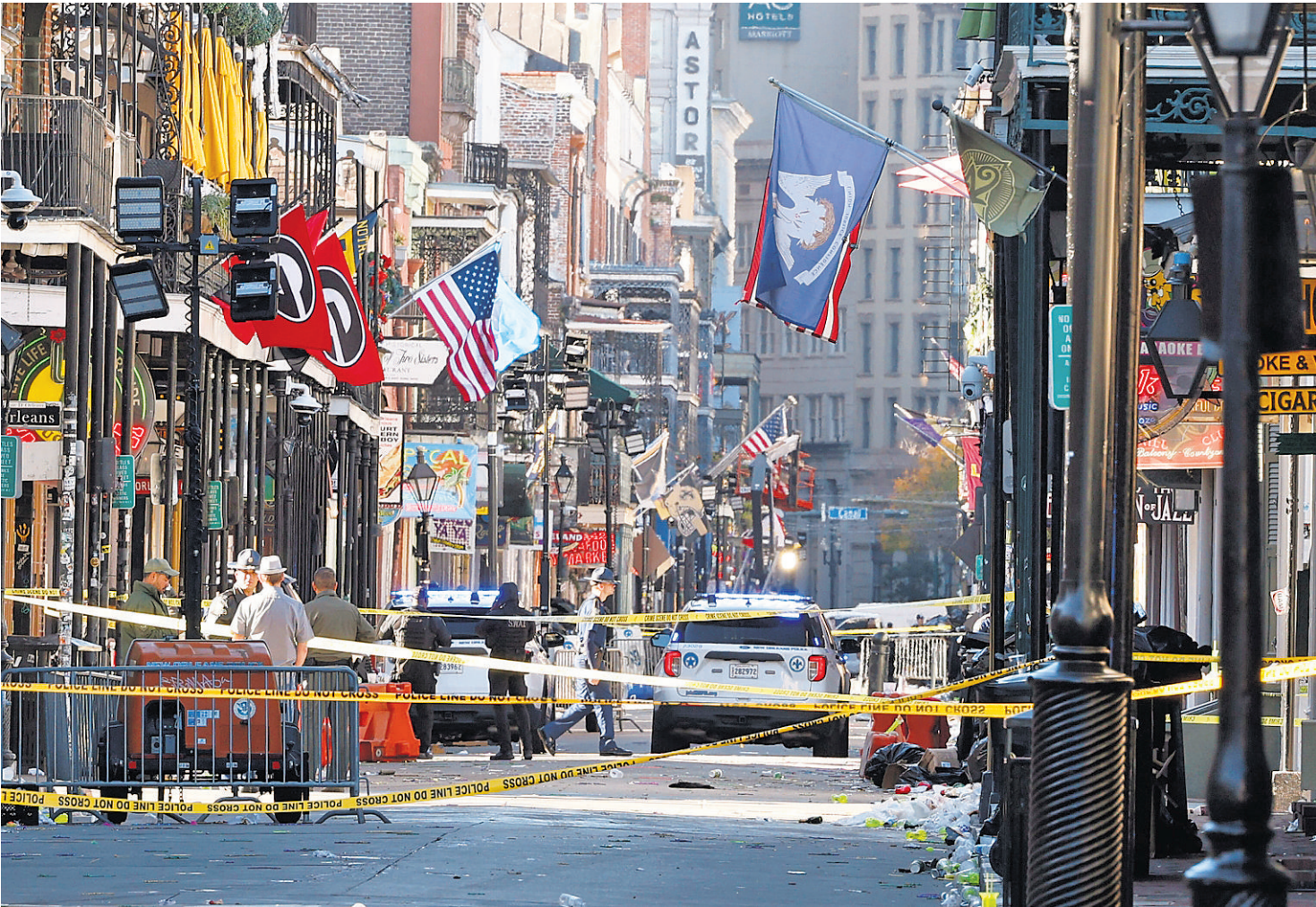


REVELRY TURNS TO HORROR IN NEW ORLEANS



Investigators near the scene where a man drove a pickup truck into pedestrians in the French Quarter of New Orleans on Wednesday.

KYIV BLOCKS PATH  
FOR RUSSIA’S GAS

Pipeline Across Ukraine  
Helped Power Europe

This article is by Marc Santora, Andrew Higgins and Jenny Gross.

KYIV, Ukraine — The flow of natural gas through a major pipeline from Russia to Europe was cut off early Wednesday after Ukraine refused to renew an agreement that allowed for the transit of Russian gas through its territory.

President Volodymyr Zelensky of Ukraine had warned for months that he would not renew the pre-war contract, which expired at midnight on Dec. 31, because of Russia’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

Kyiv’s decision to suspend the flow of gas through a pipeline that had carried Soviet and then Russian gas to Europe for decades is part of a broader campaign by Ukraine and its Western allies to undermine Moscow’s ability to fund its war effort and to limit the Kremlin’s ability to use energy as leverage in Europe.

“This is a historic event,” Ukraine’s energy minister, Herman Galushchenko, said in a statement. “Russia is losing markets, it will suffer financial losses.”

The pipeline through Ukraine, built in the Soviet era to carry Siberian gas to European markets, is Russia’s last major gas corridor to Europe following the 2022 sabotage of the Nord Stream pipeline to Germany, possibly by Ukraine, and the closure of a route through Belarus to Poland.

The Kremlin-controlled energy giant Gazprom issued a statement early on Wednesday confirming that it was no longer sending gas through the pipeline. President Vladimir V. Putin had signaled in a Dec. 19 news conference that the agreement would not be extended. “That’s fine — we will survive, Gazprom will survive,” he said.

Because the expiration of the deal was long anticipated and prepared for by European countries, it was not expected to have a substantial effect on prices, analysts said.

While the move could reduce Russia’s revenue from gas sales

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Devotees Swear by ‘Raw Water,’ Despite Risks

By SOUMYA KARLAMANGLA

MARIN COUNTY, Calif. — The highway that winds along the coast of Marin County offers some of California’s most magnificent vistas, with the deep blue Pacific Ocean glittering through veils of fog. But for a handful of travelers, the views aren’t the prize.

At one blink-and-you’ll-miss-it pullout is a natural spring that draws people from across the San Francisco Bay Area, some of whom drive hours through traffic to get there. Many of them reject water from any other source and drink only what they say is “liquid gold” that gushes from the copper pipes of Red Rock Spring.

A Drink Untested, and  
Untreated, for Those  
Who Scorn Tap

“To me, it feels more alive,” said Samantha Reich, who collected 50 gallons in water-cooler jugs that she strapped into her sedan with seatbelts on a recent morning.

Ms. Reich, 27, is among a small number of spring water aficionados who believe untreated water, or “raw water,” contains enriching minerals that are removed from tap water during the purification process.

Many of the spring’s die-hard

fans are part of the so-called health freedom movement, which opposes government public health interventions, including vaccine mandates, pasteurized milk and fluoridated water. They now have a powerful ally in Robert F. Kennedy Jr., who espouses many of the same views, including opposition to fluoridated water, and who is President-elect Donald J. Trump’s pick to lead the Health and Human Services Department. (Mr. Kennedy has yet to say whether he advocates drinking raw water.)

The trend, however, alarms health experts, who say that spring water devotees are taking

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A natural spring with so-called liquid gold draws people from across the San Francisco Bay Area.

Voters Punished Carter for Hostage Crisis, but Some of Those Held Praise Him

By PETER BAKER

WASHINGTON — As they sat locked in the same room day after day, week after week, month after month, listening to “death to America” chants and wondering when the bullet might come, the 52 American hostages being held in Iran had no idea what President Jimmy Carter was doing or if he even cared.

All they knew was that he had

not gotten them out.

Only later, after the handcuffs and the blindfolds came off, after the plane carried them out of Iranian airspace, after the threat of show trials and summary executions finally vanished, did the hostages held for 444 days fully realize just how much Mr. Carter had done, and how driven he had been to free them — perhaps, he later admitted, even too much.

Of all the people around the world mourning the death of Mr.

Leader Who Doggedly  
Took Up Their Cause

Carter at age 100 this week, few could say that he changed the course of their lives more directly and consequentially than the Americans taken captive by Iranian militants at the U.S. Embassy in Tehran in November 1979. For

U.S. Is Investigating Deadly Attack by  
Pickup Driver as Act of Terrorism

This article is by Jenna Russell, Keith Bradsher, Devlin Barrett and Emily Cochrane.

It was just after 3 a.m. on Wednesday, and while much of the country had already gone to bed after toasting the new year, the party was still going — as it usually does — on Bourbon Street in New Orleans.

Then came the sound of a white pickup truck, accelerating. In an instant, the city’s best-known, most popular public space was transformed into a scene of death and terror.

“We heard him punch the gas and then the impact and then the screams,” said Kimberly Stricklin, of Mobile, Ala., who watched with her husband as the truck careened onto Bourbon Street and slammed into the crowd. “It just took a moment to register, it was just so frightening — it was like something out of a horror movie.”

Mrs. Stricklin said she was haunted by the memory of the sounds one victim had made. “I can’t get over that girl’s screams,” she said.

Described by the federal authorities as a deliberate act of terror, the attack killed at least 15 people, wounded about three dozen others and left New Orleans, a city of 364,000, on edge; investigators said at a news conference on Wednesday that they believed that the driver did not act alone.

The driver, who was killed in a shootout with the police, was identified by the F.B.I. as Shamsud-Din Bahar Jabbar, 42, a U.S. citizen and U.S. Army veteran from Texas. He had loaded his rented truck with weapons and at least one “potential” improvised explosive, the authorities said, and an Islamic State flag was found on the trailer hitch of his rented white Ford pickup.

President Biden, in a short address at Camp David, said that the F.B.I. told him that the driver had posted videos on social media “mere hours” before the attack “indicating that he was inspired” by the Islamic State.

As law enforcement officers

swept through the French Quarter searching out suspicious packages and other potential threats and evidence on Wednesday, the authorities urged the public to send tips to aid in the investigation and vowed to track down everyone involved in the attack.

“We have a plan, we know what to do, and we will get these people,” Anne Kirkpatrick, the New Orleans police superintendent, said at a news conference Wednesday afternoon.

For residents watching the events unfold, the day felt frightening and surreal. Brian O’Brien,



Anne Kirkpatrick, the city’s police superintendent, said, “We will get these people.”

57, a tour guide who lives a block from Bourbon Street, said he woke on Wednesday to find a state trooper inspecting a cooler sitting about 100 feet from his stoop. According to Mr. O’Brien, the officer had said the cooler contained pipes, tape and lots of nails, and a bomb squad arrived soon afterward to detonate the contents.

Mr. O’Brien recalled hearing a shout of “Fire in the hole!” while he sat, with his ears covered, at a safe distance. “I’m still in shock,” he said.

Two officers were wounded when the police exchanged gunfire with the suspect after he had crashed and exited his truck; both officers survived.

The Sugar Bowl, part of the new

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Katz’s Deli Settles Legal Trouble  
That Began With Savory Review

By ED SHANAHAN

Being a New York City institution has its benefits. It can also have its downsides.

Consider Katz’s Delicatessen on Manhattan’s Lower East Side. In 2011, the Zagat New York City restaurants guide ranked Katz’s, a palace of pastrami that opened more than a century ago and still draws long lines today, at No. 42 on its list of the city’s 50 most popular restaurants.

The honor would come back to bite.

The Zagat guide, the brainchild of the married couple Tim and Nina Zagat and a trailblazer in everyone’s-a-critic reviews long before the rise of Yelp, called Katz’s a “quintessential Noo Yawk” fix-

ture” with “mouthwatering” sandwiches, latkes and kosher dogs.”

“Despite ‘zero décor’ and ‘Army-boot camp’ service,” the Katz’s entry that year continued, “fans of this ‘lovable dump’ say ‘there’s nothing else like it in the world.’”

Now, the lovable dump — famously the setting for Meg Ryan’s fake orgasm in “When Harry Met Sally” — will be getting a makeover after the owner agreed in December to bring the deli in line with federal rules governing access for disabled people.

In a news release on Monday, Edward Y. Kim, the acting U.S. at-

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**Brazil’s Transformed ‘Charme’**  
On Rio de Janeiro’s fringes, a new crop of partygoers is reviving the Brazilian R&B dance style. PAGE A5

**Role Reversal in Syria**  
Having swiftly dispatched the Assad army, the rebels face the challenge of building a new military. PAGE A7

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**Cybertruck Explodes in Vegas**  
At least seven people were hurt when a Tesla vehicle was engulfed outside a Trump International Hotel. PAGE A19

**Justice Condemns Threats**  
In a report, Chief Justice John G. Roberts decried violence and warned against defiance of rulings. PAGE A12

THURSDAY STYLES D1-6  
**12 Predictions for 2025**  
If you trust in the prognostic abilities possessed by the experts on our Styles desk, something artificial, medieval, whimsical and green lies ahead. PAGE D5



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**Leading a Streamlined Classic**  
The Metropolitan Opera revised Verdi’s “Aida” to ring in 2025, with the soprano Angel Blue and no horses. PAGE C1

**André 3000’s Newsroom Sound**  
The rapper-turned-flutist improvised in the middle of The Times’s office following a conversation on Popcast. PAGE C1

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**Mexico Sees an Opportunity**  
Betting that the tariffs talk against their nation is all bluster, business leaders say the incoming administration will enhance their factories’ appeal as an alternative to plants in China. PAGE B1

**Lebanon’s Economy Reels**  
The conflict between Israel and Hezbollah may be suspended, but the damage to the country has been immense. “We came out of this war with nothing,” one man said. PAGE B1

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**Helen Ouyang** PAGE A21



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**New Leader in Knoxville**  
Tennessee is playing winning basketball behind a new coach, Kim Caldwell, above, who has no ties to Pat Summitt, the Lady Vols’ legend. PAGE B5

