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Jim Chilton on part of his Arizona ranch where the border wall ends. Five and a half miles of his ranch are on the U.S.-Mexico border.

For Ranch Family, Border Crisis Is Right Outside the Back Door

By ELI SASLOW

ARIVACA, Ariz. — Jim Chilton, 84, had named the dirt roads and pastures on his land in honor of four generations of family cattle ranchers, but now he prepared to drive across his ranch on the U.S. border unsure of what he might find. He packed a handgun in case he encountered more smugglers working with the Sinaloa cartel and bottles of water for the migrants he’d recently seen lost and dehydrated in the Sonoran Desert.

“Do you have your satellite

phone?” asked his wife, Sue Chilton, 81. There was no cell service on most of the ranch and no other homes for several miles.

“I’ll take it with me, but assume no news is good news,” Jim said.

His plan for the day was to survey three remote water tanks and locate a few lost cows — simple tasks in a place where everything had become increasingly complicated during the last several months. Jim laid out a map of southern Arizona on the hood of his truck and showed Sue the route he planned to take across their cattle grazing land, an area

Despair and Violence
and More Migrants
Than Ever

three times the size of Manhattan located on the outskirts of Arivaca, Ariz. He traced his finger over a desolate mountain range, across six canyons, and down to the five and a half miles of their ranch that ran along the U.S.-Mexico border in what had become one of the busiest corridors for a

record wave of undocumented immigration.

“You’re sure you have everything you need?” Sue asked.

Jim searched the bed of his truck for his first-aid kit and double-checked his supplies. “I’m as prepared as I could be,” he said.

“I guess it depends on what version of the border you see today,” Sue said. Lately, she had been telling friends that understanding the current border crisis reminded her of an old folk tale about a group of blind men encountering an elephant. One man

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In Real Estate,
A Certain Name
Is Losing Luster

By RUKMINI CALLIMACHI

In the world of real estate, Donald J. Trump’s name has long been synonymous with luxury. At one of his buildings in Manhattan, a five-story waterfall slides down a wall of Breccia Perniche marble. White-gloved doormen, cascading chandeliers and panoramic views of the city’s skyline are the hallmarks of another.

It’s that image of luxury, which he turned into a brand, that the former president held up as a rebuttal to the recent lawsuit that he lost on Friday after a judge determined that Mr. Trump fraudulently inflated the value of his real estate holdings, ordering him to pay a penalty that will exceed \$450 million.

“My client is worth hundreds and hundreds of millions,” said one of Mr. Trump’s lawyers, Alina Habba, during closing arguments at the trial, adding, “let alone the brand, which is worth billions.”

But up and down the spine of Manhattan, condominiums in high-rise buildings emblazoned with Mr. Trump’s name have underperformed, according to sales data from two real estate tracking firms, and an analysis of the data by the Columbia University economist Stijn Van Nieuwerburgh.

The line in the sand is the year 2016, when Mr. Trump was elected president. In a one-year window, condos in buildings that had the Trump logo went from selling at a 1 percent premium compared with similar units, to selling for 4 percent less, meaning that Trump condos became a “bargain” among the city’s luxury units, said

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JENN ACKERMAN FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Guests enjoying a sauna in a transparent pod at Sauna Village in Minneapolis last month.

ACROSS THE COUNTRY

In Minnesota, the Saunas Are Hotter Than Ever

By ERNESTO LONDOÑO

EXCELSIOR, Minn. — Jumping in a hole in a frozen lake during a subzero Minnesota winter evening is brutal. Your body spasms and you start to hyperventilate. Pain is sharpest in your toes and fingers as the skin turns bright pink. Teeth chattering uncontrollably, you ask yourself: What on earth was I thinking?

On the banks of Lake Minnewashta in Excelsior, just outside Minneapolis, the answer lies in a dimly lit, wood-burning barrel-shaped sauna a few feet away. Inside, a gaggle of stran-

A Centuries-Old Ritual
Rises in Popularity
After a Pandemic

gers shared laughs, words of encouragement and audible sighs of delight on a recent night as we took turns cycling between the icy water and the steamy refuge cranked up to 190 degrees.

Minnesotans have begun partaking in a version of this ritual in droves as a tradition imported by the state’s Nordic settlers in the late 1800s has

gone mainstream. Since 2000, and particularly after the Covid-19 pandemic, there has been an explosion of sauna ventures in Minnesota and the broader upper Midwest catering to the growing ranks that have come to love the freeze-sweat cycle ritual. While cold plunging is not obligatory — and some opt out — most of the new sauna venues encourage even mild forms of cold exposure, like dumping a bucket of cold water on your head.

Backyard sauna makers are struggling to keep up with demand. Watershed Spa, an upscale bathhouse in Minneapolis,

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Scenes of ‘Armageddon’
As a Ukrainian City Falls

Avdiivka’s Fleeing Civilians Describe Weeks
of Brutal Aerial Bombing by Russia

By MARC SANTORA

NEAR AVDIIVKA, Ukraine — Even from a few miles away, the death rattle of another Ukrainian city echoed through the mist and fog. Russian warplanes were dropping more thousand-pound bombs on Avdiivka in eastern Ukraine, reducing an already battered city to rubble and ashes.

Since Jan. 1, President Vladimir V. Putin’s forces have dropped around one million pounds of aerial bombs on an area encompassing just 12 square miles, according to estimates by Ukrainian officials and British intelligence.

Avdiivka fell to the Russians on Saturday, after some of the most horrific and destructive fighting of the two-year-old war. In the end, Russia’s superior firepower and manpower overwhelmed Ukrainian forces over many months, even as Russia incurred a staggering number of casualties.

The Ukrainians withdrew under withering bombardment, fighting intense battles across ruined streets to break out of Russian attempts to encircle them. Russian warplanes bombed the hulking coke-processing plant on Avdiivka’s northern outskirts, using incendiary munitions to blow up fuel tanks at the plant, unleashing a toxic smog, according to Ukrainian soldiers fighting there.

“Avdiivka is a constant barrage of aviation bombs,” Maksym Zhorin, deputy commander of the Third Special Assault Brigade, said on Friday. “It feels like the largest number of air bombs on such a stretch of land in the entire history of humanity. These bombs completely obliterate any positions. All buildings, structures, after just one airstrike, turn into craters.”

Astonishingly, more than 900 civilians had remained in the city, according to city administrators and the police — from a prewar population of 30,000 — living subterranean lives and surviving on food and supplies brought in by aid workers.

In the aftermath of the Ukrainian withdrawal, their fate was unknown.

“I have not been able to reach anyone for the past two days,” said Ihor Fir, a mechanic at the coke plant before it was destroyed, who was regularly risking his life to bring food, water and medicine to the civilians still living in Avdiivka and surrounding villages.

The last messages he received were from people desperate to escape, but unable to move under the constant shelling. Any survivors in the city, he said, were likely to be stranded. “There is no way for them to get out,” he said by phone on Saturday. “The road is under shelling.”

In an interview last week, Mr. Fir called conditions in Avdiivka

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TYLER HICKS/THE NEW YORK TIMES

Those who escaped Avdiivka were given food and medicine.

Russia Targets
Those Grieving
Navalny Death

By VALERIE HOPKINS

MOSCOW — A bishop who planned a public prayer for the Russian opposition leader Aleksei A. Navalny was detained as he left his house. Two men were arrested for having a photograph of Mr. Navalny in a backpack. Another man who lay flowers at a memorial said he was beaten by police officers for the small act of remembrance.

As thousands of Russians across the country tried to give voice to their grief for Mr. Navalny, who died in a remote Arctic penal colony on Friday, Russian police officers cracked down, temporarily detaining hundreds and placing more than two dozen in jail.

Until Mr. Navalny’s death at the age of 47, many observers had believed that the Kremlin would limit repression until after presidential elections in mid-March, when President Vladimir V. Putin is all but assured a fifth term. But many now fear that the arrests portend a broader crackdown.

“Those who are detaining people are afraid of any opinion that isn’t connected to propaganda, to the pervading ideology,” said Lena, 31, who brought a sticker to the Solovetsky Stone, a monument to victims of political repression in the Soviet Union. “Don’t give up,” read the sticker — part of a message Mr. Navalny once recorded in case of his death.

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UNHEALTHY Aleksei A. Navalny’s staff worried that brutal prison conditions might kill him. PAGE A6

U.S. Disquieted
As Russia Eyes
Arms in Space

By DAVID E. SANGER
and JULIAN E. BARNES

MUNICH — When Russia conducted a series of secret military satellite launches around the time of its invasion of Ukraine in early 2022, American intelligence officials began delving into the mystery of what, exactly, the Russians were doing.

Later, spy agencies discovered Russia was working on a new kind of space-based weapon that could threaten the thousands of satellites that keep the world connected.

In recent weeks, a new warning has circulated from America’s spy agencies: Another launch may be in the works, and the question is whether Russia plans to use it to put a real nuclear weapon into space — a violation of a half-century-old treaty. The agencies are divided on the likelihood that President Vladimir V. Putin would go so far, but nonetheless the intelligence is an urgent concern to the Biden administration.

Even if Russia does place a nuclear weapon in orbit, U.S. officials are in agreement in their assessment that the weapon would not be detonated. Instead, it would lurk as a time bomb in low orbit, a reminder from Mr. Putin that if he was pressed too hard with sanctions, or military opposition to his ambitions in Ukraine or beyond, he could destroy economies without targeting humans on earth.

Despite the uncertainties, Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken raised the possibility of the Russian nuclear move with his Chinese and Indian counterparts on

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Gaza’s Artists Trace Struggle

An exhibition features works evoking Palestinian life. But it is also about the art lost forever in the war. PAGE A11

Vote Tampering in Pakistan

A senior official’s confession lent weight to claims by Imran Khan’s supporters that the military had meddled. PAGE A10

NATIONAL A12-21

Not Drunk but Sick

A trooper arrested and jailed a woman after witnessing her erratic driving. She was not intoxicated but in need of urgent medical attention. PAGE A13

Youth on Both Ends of the Gun

The Super Bowl parade violence underscored how easily they can be involved in shootings, experts said. PAGE A13

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Candidate for Sainthood

Born into slavery, Pierre Toussaint used his funds from hairdressing to free enslaved people. Overlooked. PAGE B6



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Winning Games, Losing Teeth

The gap-toothed look of hockey players is a stereotype in a sport where a dentist has to be part of the staff. PAGE D7

A Tibetan Tennis Star?

No player from Tibet has earned a single ranking point since the ATP started its rankings. Until now. PAGE D1

BUSINESS B1-5

Facial Recognition Takes Off

Biometric technology is expanding at airports across the United States and the world and transforming the way we move through them, from checking a bag to boarding the plane. PAGE B1

All Hail a FAFSA Loophole

Even amid the botched rollout of the new financial aid form, a rule change will let some grandparents help pay for college without compromising a student’s eligibility for aid. PAGE B1

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Farah Stockman

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Telling Tales of West Africa

“Aya,” the graphic novel series by Marguerite Abouet that is based in Ivory Coast, mixes humor and biting takes on society, with a feminist twist. PAGE C6



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