

Chicago Tribune



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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2023

BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM



The Midwest Generation Crawford Generating Station in Chicago's Little Village neighborhood closed in 2012. **JOSÉ M. OSORIO/TRIBUNE**

Soot from coal more deadly, study finds

Fossil fuel shown to be more dangerous than other power sources

By Michael Hawthorne
Chicago Tribune

Burning coal to generate electricity is on the way out in the United States, but the nation's long dependence on the fossil fuel took a devastating toll.

A new study determined for the first time that soot pollution from coal-fired power plants is more dangerous than soot from other sources. During the past two decades, the researchers found, coal plant soot contributed to the deaths of at least 460,000 Americans, including 25% of all deaths among Medicare recipients before 2009.

Only Pennsylvania, New York and Ohio recorded more deaths associated with coal plant pollution than the 25,000 deaths in Illinois during the period studied.

An interactive map accompanying the study, published Thursday in the journal *Science*, reveals glimmers of hope amid the grim statistics.

Deaths attributed to coal plant soot have declined dramatically in recent years as utilities closed scores of their dirtiest plants and cleaned up others — changes prompted by more stringent federal clean air regulations, competition from less expensive gas-fired power plants and legal pressure from environmental groups.

“The fact that they estimated more than 40,000 deaths a year two decades ago and the number is now down to 1,600 a year is a pretty remarkable success story,” said Jonathan Levy, chair of the Department of Environmental Health at Boston University, who wasn't involved in the study.

Soot, also known as particulate matter, is a byproduct of incomplete combustion and can be formed by chemical reactions between sulfur dioxide emitted

Turn to Pollution, Page 10

ISRAEL-HAMAS WAR

Cease-fire raises hope

Agreed hostage-prisoner swap of 4 days not starting until Friday

By Josef Federman,
Tia Goldenberg
and Samy Magdy
Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's national security adviser says a planned hostage-for-prisoner swap with Hamas has been delayed until at least Friday.

In a statement released late Wednesday, Tzachi Hanegbi said that contacts on the deal were continuing. “The release will begin according to the original agreement between the parties, and not before Friday,” he said.

The swap was to take place as part of a four-day truce in the war in Gaza expected to begin Thursday.

Hanegbi gave no explanation for the delay, and it was not clear when the cease-fire might begin.

The surprise announcement came after Israel and Hamas earlier Wednesday agreed to a four-day cease-fire — a diplomatic breakthrough that would free dozens of hostages held by militants as well as Palestinians imprisoned in Israel, and bring a large influx of aid to the besieged territory.

The truce raised hopes of eventually winding down the war, which was triggered by Hamas' Oct. 7 deadly rampage into Israel.

Now in its seventh week, the war has leveled vast swaths of Gaza, fueled a surge of violence in the occupied West Bank, and stirred fears of a wider conflagration across the Middle East.

But Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, joined by the two other members of his special war cabinet, told a nationally televised news conference that the war would resume after the truce expires. Israel's goals are

Turn to Truce, Page 4



Jessica Littmann and Nurzan Binti Zahid Hussin set out dinner for Nurzan's sons in the Dil Mohamad family apartment in the West Ridge neighborhood on Sunday. **EILEEN T. MESLAR/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

A connection amid parallels

Descendant of Holocaust survivors forms friendship with Muslim refugee

By Angie Leventis Lourgos
Chicago Tribune

The friendship between the two women was unlikely in so many ways.

One is a devout Muslim who fled religious persecution in Myanmar, arriving in Chicago last year as a pregnant refugee. The other is a Jewish descendant of Holocaust survivors.

Their deep connection was born of parallel legacies of oppression, immigration and

resilience. Then it was strengthened by calamity during an emergency labor and perilous delivery.

Now that bond continues to flourish — even as violence recently raged thousands of miles away in the Middle East amid the Israel-Hamas war, which has sparked a horrific surge in antisemitism and Islamophobia locally as well as across the globe.

Nurzan Binti Zahid Hussin and Jessica Littmann shared their story with the Tribune last year, as Nurzan's family cele-

brated their first Thanksgiving meal in the United States with Jessica's family in their Evanston home, taking their first bites of turkey, pumpkin pie and other traditional dishes.

Jessica served as a co-sponsor for the refugee family in early 2022, motivated in part by her late grandmother's survival of a concentration camp in Nazi-occupied Germany during World War II and subsequent resettlement as a refugee in the United States.

Dark stories from the Holocaust — contrasted by bright accounts of support and renewal in America — had laced so much of Jessica's childhood. Yet the 48-year-old mother of three was still unsure of what to expect as she embarked on the journey of welcoming a family of strangers with such a disparate culture, religion and language.

Jessica never anticipated how close she would become with the

Turn to Friendship, Page 6

Many discover meaning in first Thanksgiving



Marienno Brito sits with her children Paul, left, 6, and Juan Pablo, 9, as they take part in a potluck Thanksgiving dinner Wednesday at Chappell Elementary School in Chicago. **JOHN J. KIM/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

Migrants grateful for new home feel the warmth of community

By Laura Rodríguez Presa
and Alysa Guffey
Chicago Tribune

Since arriving in Chicago on April 30, Maria Goitia she said she's been thankful for all the people who have crossed her path. There were some who fed her and her family, a group of eight including two young grandchildren, while others gave them coats to keep warm, and many more who had been there through their journey from Venezuela, one way or another.

“But we couldn't have it without everyone's help; we're extremely grateful for everything and everyone who's helped us to get to this day,” the mother said.

On Tuesday morning, Goitia

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INSIDE



CHRIS WALKER/TRIBUNE 2022

Former Illinois state Senate president dies

James “Pate” Philip was a loyal GOP leader who once symbolized suburban Republicanism. He was 93. **ChicagoLand, Page 7**

2 dead in US-Canada border crossing blast

Authorities find no signs of terror after a vehicle speeding toward a bridge crashed and exploded in Niagara Falls, N.Y. **Nation & World**

